FBIS DAILY REPORT

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GDR DELEGATE ADDRESSES DISARMAMENT COMMITTEE SESSION

LD2820587 Moscow TASS in English 2045 GMT 28 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Geneva, February 28, TASS--TASS correspondent Yuriy Lopatin reports:

Disarmament has become the key question of international policy and it is of great importance for the process of easing international tension, said the GDR representative Gerhard Herder at today's meeting of the Disarmament Committee.

The socialist states, he continued, come out firmly for an agreement on consistent disarmament measures. Implementation of the proposal of Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, that all states should stop simultaneously the production of nuclear arms and reduce gradually the already existing stockpiles until they are completely liquidated, would be the most radical solution of the question of eliminating the nuclear war menace.

Development of new types and systems of mass annihilation weapons, including the neutron bomb and strategic cruise missiles, the GDR representative stressed, proves patently the timeliness and groundedness of the proposals advanced by the USSR and other socialist states to conclude an all-embracing agreement on their banning. The German Democratic Republic demands a ban on the neutron bomb and believes that the Disarmament Committee cannot remain silent on this brutal weapon, must back world public opinion, which is coming out at against it. The production of the neutron bomb would deal a blow at the disarmament negotiations, would jeopardize the achievement of an agreement on the restriction of the arms race in Europe and throughout the world.

The GDR representative went on record for the conclusion of an all-embracing agreement on the banning of new types and systems of mass annihilation weapons and fully seconded the Soviet proposal to the West to renounce mutually the neutron bomb. He stressed that bilateral and multilateral negotiations on this question should begin as quickly as possible.

The Nigerian representative submitted for the committee's consideration proposals which are to be included in the all-embracing disarmament program.

VORONTSOV: U.S. TO BLAME FOR DELAYING BELGRADE DOCUMENT

LD010353Y Moscow in English to North America 2230 GMT 28 Feb 78 LD

[Text] In Belgrade on Tuesday, there was a fullscale meeting at the all-European followup conference at which two new drafts of the final document were tabled. NATO countries submitted the first draft: They devote a large part in it, just as in preceding drafts, to the problem of human rights. Under the pretext of defending these rights, the NATO countries intend to include in the final document phrases that would be tantamount to legal interference in the internal affairs of other countries. The representatives of the socialist countries have described the draft as negative.

Romania has advanced the other draft. It reflects points that have already won the approval of all the 35 delegations, and at the same time pays close attention to measures to ease military tensions.

The head of the Soviet delegation, Yuliy Vorontsov, has declared the American delegation is primarily to blame for the delay in working out the final document of the Belgrade meeting.

USSR MEDIA BLAST WEST'S ATTEMPTS TO BLOCK CSCE DOCUMENT

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA Commentary

LD2810556Y Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 24 Feb 78 p 3 LD

[K. Yuryev dispatch: "On the Line--Belgrade: To Deepen Detente"]

[Text] Work is being concluded here of the Belgrade meeting of representatives of the countries that participated in the European Conference on Security and Cooperation in Helsinki. The present stage of this meeting can be compared to the finishing straight, although the word "straight" is not very suitable in this case....

The elaboration of the meeting's concluding document--and it is precisely in this that the diplomats of the 35 countries are currently engaged in Belgrade--is proceeding with difficulty. The blame for this lies in the stubborn striving of the delegations of the United States and several of its NATO allies to force provisions into this document that are aimed at revising the final act adopted in Helsinki and at reviewing the meaning of the all-European process of detente and cooperation.

During the last 4 months, thanks to the consistent position of the socialist countries' delegations, the Belgrade meeting has focused its attention on the security and cooperation issues most current for the continent. Many appropriate proposals have been submitted in this connection by both the socialist and also the neutral countries delegations. It is possible to recall, for example, the proposals on deepening military detente and freezing the military budgets of the participating countries, which are aimed at promoting the success of the special disarmament session of the UN General Assembly, and other proposals. The need to stop production of neutron weapons was also mentioned in Belgrade.

In the course of the discussion, the representatives of the United States and a number of other NATO countries opposed debating these burning proposals. [paragraph continues]

Now, at the drafting stage of the meeting's work, they are trying to bypass them in the concluding document. It has now become clear that they are no longer interested in questions of trade and economic cooperation in Europe, which is obvious from their attitude toward the drafts put forward in this sphere--although we recall that these problems were also the center of attention of the Belgrade meeting.

You ask yourself: Just what are the American and other NATO representatives after, and what do they feel should be contained in the concluding document? As people are saying in the corridors of the Sava Palace, at one of the latest plenary sessions the delegates of the United States and Denmark (which now presides in the West European "Nine", the countries making up the Common Market, and therefore speaks on its behalf) stated that they will not agree to the adoption of a concluding document unless the notorious "human rights" provisions are "sufficiently developed" in it, giving these, moreover--and this is the crux of the matter--an interpretation that far exceeds the limits of the Helsinki final act and the competence of the Belgrade meeting itself. This position, which is correctly called an "ultimatum," actually means blocking the drafting work and undermining the chances of elaborating a generally accepted concluding document--along with ignoring the most important political, trade and economic aspects of the meeting.

Outwardly, it is true there is no shortage in Belgrade of mellifluent statements by these delegations about the need to conclude the meeting "with substantial" results. But this kind of statement is in fact designed only as propaganda: Immediately after pronouncing such statements, their texts are handed out to the journalists present, while simultaneously in the session halls U.S. representative Goldberg and his partners continue to advance their "ultimatums," making it known that if these are not taken into consideration there will be no basis for any drafting.

Meanwhile, there is a basis for compiling the concluding document--a fairly good, solid basis. As early as 17 January, the Soviet delegation submitted its draft of a concluding document. This document has now been distributed at the meeting in a somewhat altered form--with the inclusion of all the provisions that have already been agreed upon or were close to agreement during the preliminary drafting work in the last few weeks. This is a balanced, solid document fully reflecting both the course of the discussion in Belgrade and the main directions of future activity to strengthen security and expand cooperation in Europe. Speaking about this draft, Yu. M. Vorontsov, the head of the USSR delegation, stressed the Soviet side's readiness to take into account the reasonable, compromise proposals of other delegations when putting the finishing touches to the document--proposals which show concern for detente and the development of mutual understanding among peoples. But no "ultimatums" or distortions in interpreting the final act in the direction of interferring in the internal affairs of other states can, of course, be accepted, the Soviet representative stressed.

In connection with the difficulties that have arisen during the drafting work at the Belgrade meeting, the NATO countries' delegations have with the help of their propaganda machine begun actively inspiring and spreading rumours "about the impasse" that has emerged in Belgrade, about the absence of a bulky concluding document being tantamount to the "failure" of the meeting, which they say, will affect detente, and so on and so forth. There is no doubt that such speculation does not promote the success of this business. It is clear to everyone that the trends and tempo of detente in Europe are not, of course, determined by the volume of the Belgrade meeting decisions but by the final act adopted in Helsinki, which was designed for many years ahead and is already being successfully put into practice. And indeed the very assertions themselves that the Belgrade meeting is coming to a "barren" conclusion are simply absurd.

As was indeed envisaged by the final act, an in-depth exchange of opinions has been conducted in Belgrade on the state of the multifaceted process begun in Helsinki and on the ways of further advancing detente and cooperation. This exchange of opinions--the first since Helsinki, with the participation of representatives of the 35 states--has been useful and has made it possible to generalize the experience accumulated, get to know each other's evaluations, and outline the next steps in implementing the final act. It has also been possible to agree on specific measures such as holding a conference of experts of the 35 countries to examine and elaborate a generally acceptable method of settling disputes; proclaiming a year of cultural cooperation among the participating countries; holding a conference of experts to prepare the "science forum" envisaged by the final act. In the immediate future, there may be agreement on a number of concrete measures, given the good will of the Western side. A general accord that the next such meeting of representatives of the 35 states will take place in 1980 in Madrid is of great importance. Is this so little?

No one expected cardinal steps in the resolution of burning contemporary problems from the Belgrade meeting--this is neither its level nor its mandate. But to confirm the fact of progress along the path of Helsinki, establish the common will to indeed go further in this direction, and outline concrete measures for this--this is what is expected from the meeting in the Yugoslav capital. And it is precisely toward this end that the delegations of the Soviet Union and the other socialist states are now striving and exerting maximum effort to insure that the Belgrade meeting ends positively and benefits the cause of detente, security and cooperation in Europe.

IZVESTIYA Report

LD281345Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Feb 78 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[Report by IZVESTIYA special correspondents Yu. Kayurov and L. Toporkov: "Near the End of the Belgrade Meeting"]

[Text] Belgrade--A lot of snow has fallen in Belgrade in the last few days. Cars pull up outside the Sava Palace of Congresses bringing diplomats hurrying to the Belgrade meeting. Strictly speaking, the period agreed for the meeting has expired and its mandate has been fulfilled. The delay is over how to reflect the results of the work done. To reflect it, moreover, in a way which favors further development of the multifaceted process of detente initiated in 1975 in Helsinki.

Two approaches to this question have clashed in the Sava Palace. The socialist countries' delegations proceed on the basis that the meeting's final document, regardless of its form and volume, should be positive in spirit. It should reflect the European countries' interest in deepening detente and broadening cooperation, an interest which has been the dominant factor in Belgrade, and their desire in continuing the implementation of the provisions of the final act.

The delegations from the United States and some of its NATO allies adopt a different position: They want to bring into the final document provisions which would distort and revise the Helsinki accords and legalize interference in sovereign states' internal affairs beneath the "defense of human rights" flag. Their proposals ignore very important aspects of European detente--questions of strengthening security, lessening military confrontation and broadening trade and economic cooperation.

The adoption of these proposals would render the main content of the Belgrade meeting null and void. [paragraph continues]

In fact, it was questions of security and cooperation, whatever Western propaganda might do to hide the fact, which were the focus of attention during the work of the 35 delegations in the Yugoslav capital. During the meeting there was a close examination of important proposals concerning the deepening of military detente in Europe, renunciation of first use of nuclear weapons, the freezing of military budgets and so forth. There was also a painstaking discussion of problems of broadening trade and economic and scientific and technical cooperation and other constructive proposals submitted by the socialist states and also the nonalined states.

Representatives of a number of NATO countries, particularly the United States, used up most of their energy during the discussion to mount a vociferous propaganda campaign in the spirit of "psychological warfare." And now, as the final document is being formulated, they are seeking to push key questions of security and cooperation into the background and bring the artificially exaggerated problem of "human rights" into the forefront.

As for the final document, many representatives believe that the amplified draft submitted by the Soviet delegation would be a good basis for it. The draft includes specific proposals either agreed on or close to being agreed on during the previous work. The Soviet draft embraces all aspects of all-European detente and cooperation and reflects the specific initiatives put forward during the Belgrade meeting. They include the proposal on holding special consultations on questions of strengthening security and confidence-building measures in the military sphere; the Swiss proposal on methods of the peaceful settlement of disputes, and measures proposed by the FRG in connection with the preparation of a "science forum."

USSR delegation head Yu.M. Vorontsov submitted the amplified draft and expressed readiness to take into account other proposals by meeting participants during discussions of the draft. However, he said, proposals which particular participants find unacceptable have no place in the final document. There can be no compromises or discussions on questions which are in any way connected with a revision of the final act.

In recent days, Western delegates have been talking to journalists in the corridors of the Sava palace about a "deadlock," "breakdown" and "crisis," with unequivocal reference to the socialist countries' delegations. And meanwhile in the sessions hall there has been another flagrant attempt to torpedo the work on elaborating the final document. On the evening of 21 February, a draft submitted by the NATO countries' was circulated. It caused general bewilderment. It is a collection of totally unacceptable proposals by these countries, proposals which they submitted and were resolutely rejected by the other delegations last October-November.

The impression among journalists is that the purpose of this step was twofold: first, to block the possibility of adopting a meaningful final document; second, to provide grounds for launching an even wider propaganda campaign about demagogic proposals that the authors of the draft of course do not expect to be accepted.

The NATOites have been suitably rebuffed. They have again failed to deflect the Belgrade meeting from its correct path--discussion of the problems really concerning the European people.

The final days of the Belgrade meeting lie ahead. They will show to what extent certain Western countries are ready to make their contribution to creating a climate of trust and mutual understanding on our continent.

TASS Report From Belgrade

LD2810547 Moscow TASS in English 1047 GMT 28 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Belgrade, February 28, TASS--Representatives of the USA and their NATO allies continue blocking the drafting of a positive final document of the Belgrade meeting of representatives of the states which participated in the European Security and Cooperation Conference. As is known, a useful detailed exchange of views was held at the Belgrade forum on the implementation of the provisions of the final act of the all-European conference, on improving mutual relations, strengthening the security and cooperation in the European Continent, and on developing the process of detente in the future. Representatives of the Soviet Union and the other socialist states made specific proposals aimed at ending the arms race, at further developing cooperation in the economic, scientific-technical, cultural and other fields.

The delegations of the socialist countries have made and continue making maximum efforts so that the meeting end constructively in the adoption of a final document. The Soviet delegation has tabled a detailed draft of such a document, including provisions, on which agreement was expressed by all the participants in the meetings. Although the Soviet draft could be a good basis for drawing up a final document, it has been rejected by the delegations of the Western countries.

Last Friday, representatives of the socialist countries expressed in the course of unofficial consultations their consent with the mutually acceptable draft of a final document prepared by delegations of neutral and non-aligned states. But the representative of the USA and his supporters in NATO declared against that draft, too.

Representatives of the socialist and neutral countries are continuing active efforts so that the Belgrade meeting end positively.

Grigoryev Commentary

LD2819367 Moscow in Czech and Slovak to Czechoslovakia 1600 GMT 28 Feb 78 LD

[Yevgeniy Grigoryev commentary]

[Text] Some observers are already assessing the Belgrade conference without waiting for it to end. To a certain degree this is justified. The positive aim of the conference has been achieved. A deep exchange of views took place on further realization of the provisions of the final act of the all-European conference; on developing neighborly relations of cooperation between the conference's participants; and on strengthening detente and security in our part of the world.

Behind us are 5 months of plenary meetings and discussions in separate working groups. Every delegation had the opportunity to express its views on all questions under discussion. The only direction of the process, which was commenced in Helsinki, was and is the road of safeguarding security and expanding cooperation in Europe.

We cannot allow Europe--through some sort of inertia or as a result of the mad logic of the growth of military arsenals--to end up the victim of a nuclear disaster. This is now our main task.

From the viewpoint of this task it is necessary to assess the proposals submitted at the Belgrade conference and determine the content of its final document. Of great importance are the concrete proposals submitted in the spirit of the Helsinki agreements by the socialist countries. The Soviet (?draft) plan contains a number of proposals on the conclusion of a treaty between the participants of the all-European conference on not using nuclear arms against each other; on not increasing the membership of the military and political groups that face each other in Europe; and on not holding military exercises exceeding 50,000 troops.

These and many other proposals submitted in Belgrade are directed toward anchoring and deepening military detente in Europe, ending the feverish arms race and expanding mutual cooperation. If the same attitude were to be expressed by all the participants at the Belgrade conference, then it would undoubtedly be possible to attain further progress in implementing a long-term program such as the generally accepted final act. Regretfully, some of the delegations, primarily the U.S. representatives, pursue completely opposite aims in Belgrade. They stress propagandist confrontation, claim the right to interfere in the internal affairs of the socialist states under the guise of "protecting human rights," and in a number of instances attempt to obtain a direct revision of the final act. Naturally they have been unable to achieve success, but have created a number of serious difficulties in the work of the Belgrade conference.

The U.S. even prepared as a joint NATO proposal a draft of the final document which, according to an admission by AFP was doomed to failure as it was so unacceptable that even many of Washington's European partners agreed to it only reluctantly. It is significant that France, one of the members of the North Atlantic treaty, totally refused to join this so-called U.S. initiative. It must be said that the line pursued by the U.S. representatives often caused dissatisfaction among the Western delegates.

Some press organs, such as the London FINANCIAL TIMES noted that Western diplomats now admit that perhaps they made a mistake. Truly, it would be unrealistic to hope that these positions, which are in total contrast to the spirit and letter of the Helsinki agreements, would have any chance of success in Belgrade. [passage indistinct]

But those who approached the conference like the socialist countries--which did so with responsibility, and which, with their businesslike and concrete proposals in Belgrade, have worked for another step forward along the road of detente--did so with the wide interests of cooperation between countries with differing social systems in mind. The process commenced in Helsinki has now become a natural and logical one, and it takes place without any regard to the obstacles created by the opponents of detente. Life has proven the extraordinary importance of implementing the final act for the situation in Europe.

Nekrasov on UK Stand

LD282338Y Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 1900 GMT 28 Feb 78 LD

[Vadim Nekrasov commentary]

[Text] If one were asked to sum up briefly the far from simple situation that has developed at the Belgrade meeting of the 35 nations that signed the Helsinki final act, it could be said that two different trends have been clearly defined at it.

While part of the delegates are doing their utmost to achieve positive results without further delay, others are quite obviously stalling, evading constructive cooperation at the last stage of the meeting and, what is infinitely more serious, are virtually trying to rewrite the Helsinki agreements. That, however unwillingly, can only be described as sabotage.

Britain is one of the countries whose representatives, while paying lip service to strengthening security and cooperation between the European countries, are in practice pursuing a course that could lead to the revision of the European accord achieved 2 and 1/2 years ago. It (?cannot) be said that London's representative in Belgrade is vigorously pursuing such a line, but because he follows zealously the line taken by the American delegation and shows not the slightest desire to display any independence, he becomes the executor of a political course drawn up on the other side of the Atlantic. We make no mention of the reasons for such an attitude; we are merely stating the fact.

One of the main achievements of the Helsinki conference, as we see it today, was the successful implementation of the principle of consensus--that is, when any provision had to receive the consent of all the participants. That principle made it possible to surmount the division of Europe into two groupings that had been typical for all the postwar years and find a common denominator acceptable to all European nations.

But what is happening today? Aren't we witnessing an attempt to revive the confrontation? The group of Western participants in the Belgrade meeting, including Britain, have refused to go along with the draft of the final document that sets out the issues on which common consent has been reached in the working group. The representatives of this group, and especially the United States delegation, are hoping to get included in the document provisions on the human rights issue in their own interpretation, which does not correspond to the principled approach of the East European socialist countries. The complex problem of interpreting the rights and duties of citizens of one country or another is something that falls within the sovereign competence of each nation. Yet in Belgrade, it's being turned into an apple of international discord and could serve as the pretext for outside interference in the internal affairs of other countries, thereby undermining relations of trust and goodneighborliness.

At the same time, the Western delegations are not displaying any readiness to reaffirm in the final document the main provisions of the final act dealing with the problems of military relaxation and security. They claim that there's no need to repeat the document adopted in Helsinki. But one wonders: Are they aware that certain political forces, spurred by their own selfish interests, could one day try to counterpose the results of the Belgrade meeting to the final act, and while not formally denouncing the act, strip it of its substance; and that substance was the pledge the 35 nations gave to build their relations on the basis of trust and cooperation that rested on recognition of their sovereign equality and noninterference in each other's internal affairs. If such an attempt is made, the very foundation of European security would be undermined--the foundation that had been built over the past few years so carefully and despite all difficulties on the continent.

Potapov Report

LD282148Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 28 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Preparation of the final document is continuing at the Belgrade meeting of representatives of the 35 states participating in the all-European conference. Over to Belgrade and our special correspondent Anatoliy Potapov: [begin recording]

There is a peculiar situation at the Belgrade meeting. The main aim of the forum has been attained. An in-depth exchange of views has taken place on the further implementation of all the provisions of the final act of the all-European conference. According to the general view, this exchange was highly satisfactory. However, the final document has not yet been adopted.

The Soviet draft, which reflected all the positive achievements at Belgrade, was rejected by the NATO countries' representatives. A few days ago, the delegations of the neutral and nonalined countries circulated their draft. It aroused great interest. The Soviet delegation expressed its readiness to adopt it as a basis for discussion. However, this draft angered the head of the U.S. delegation, Goldberg.

He urgently convened a closed session of representatives of certain NATO countries. Those in the know say that the U.S. representative was beside himself. He does not wish to include in the document recommendations to all the 35 participating states to take specific and effective steps to stop the arms race. The draft submitted by the neutral countries made precisely this point.

The meeting of experts to consider specific measures in the field of military detente, provided for by the document, is also not to the liking of the U.S. delegation. It seems that all that is constructive and essential with regard to the further consolidation of trust is not to the liking of the U.S. delegation.

Today, many delegates in the lobbies of the Palace of Congresses said bluntly that the U.S. delegation has in fact obstructed the draft submitted by the neutral countries, which provides for measures aimed at the further uninterrupted process of detente.

What, then, is the aim of the U.S. delegation at Belgrade? It is striving to change, to touch up [podpravlyat] the final act, which was unanimously adopted in Helsinki. They would like to drag intolerable formulations into the final document at Belgrade that would legalize interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states. However, it is precisely this that has been prohibited by the final act.

This has met with a sharp rebuff on the part of the socialist countries here in Belgrade. The following interesting assessment was made today in journalist circles: Certain representatives of the NATO countries have submitted over 20 proposals at Belgrade. Not one of these proposals has any relevance to the issues of detente and disarmament. In an interview with journalists, Comrade Vorontsov, the head of the Soviet delegation, said: If attempts are made to use the delay in the forum's work to pressure its participants, those attempts are in vain.

The unrealistic stand by the representative of the United States, which hinders the successful completion of a useful meeting, has aroused bewilderment among many delegations at the Belgrade Palace of Congresses. [end recording]

FRG FACTIONS SUPPORT NEUTRON ARMS DIRECTLY, INDIRECTLY

LD281315Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Feb 78 p 3 LD

[Text] Bonn, 23 February TASS--The Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union [CDU/CSU] faction in the FRG Bundestag has adopted a resolution in which it comes out in favor of the production of the neutron bomb in the United States and its deployment on FRG territory. An official statement reports that the faction "confirmed its position on the subject of equipping the Atlantic alliance with neutron weapons." It demands that the FRG Government and other NATO member states should "approve the U.S. President's decision on the production of this weapon and its inclusion in the arsenals of the Atlantic alliance."

The leaders of the West German opposition try, as usual, to back up this resolution with fabrications on the mythical "Soviet threat" and the "need" to launch a "deterrence strategy" directed against the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries.

Observers note that the leaders of the CDU/CSU opposition bloc, who long ago openly proclaimed their policy aims as a NATO arms buildup, strengthening the Bundeswehr and increasing FRG military expenditure, have thus finally exposed themselves to the international public as open supporters of new, barbaric mass-destruction weapons, whose production plans are now arousing growing indignation and protests throughout the world.

The Free Democratic Party [FDP] faction has occupied a two-faced and precarious position on this vitally important question in the Bundestag. By not rejecting in essence the plans to produce the neutron weapon--which, according to its assertion, is the full prerogative of the United States--the faction is in effect not opposing the deployment of neutron weapons on the territory of the FRG and other West European countries. It masks its consent by various kinds of reservations. When discussing this problem the FDP pretends that the question of neutron weapons production and their deployment in Europe does not depend on the FRG, whereas a resolute position by West Germany and other West European countries can prevent the deployment of this weapon on their territory.

Another party in the government coalition, the Social Democratic Party of Germany [SPD], has not yet taken a firm negative position on this barbaric weapon. SPD leaders have not yet made definite statements which consider the demands of the country's broad public.

WEST GERMAN PAPER PLAYED FOR DEFENSE OF NEUTRON BOMB

LD281443Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Feb 78 P 5 LD

[V. Korionov article: "Advocates of a Barbaric Weapon"]

[Text] The struggle against the Pentagon's desire to start series production of the neutron bomb and deploy it on the territory of Western Europe is becoming a concern for all peoples. It is becoming increasingly difficult for the heralds of the neutron bomb to find arguments to justify this new weapon of mass destruction. The West German newspaper DIE WELT is rushing to their assistance. [paragraph continues]

Quoting anonymous "NATO experts," it has published a set of notes which is supposed to aid the supporters of the neutron bomb in convincing alarmed people that this weapon of mass destruction is harmless and even "humane."

The neutron bomb can in no way be called inhuman, DIE WELT says with an innocent air, asserting that there is no important difference between the neutron bomb and...a stone ax. The absurdity of this comparison is obvious. On behalf of 400,000 scientists in 31 countries Eric Burhop, president of the World Federation of Scientific Workers, states: "The luckiest victims of this weapon will be the tiny minority who will die immediately. The overwhelming majority will be doomed to a terrible, agonizing death lasting many weeks, months or years..." To equate a weapon of this sort and a stone ax can only be done by those whose ideas of humanism are truly at caveman level.

As is well known, one of the main aims of the creators of the neutron bomb is to lower the nuclear threshold and make the transition to a nuclear war, as it were, imperceptible to the people. Here also the atom bomb maniacs from DIE WELT have prepared an "argument." "The decision to cross this threshold with all its consequences is a matter for the U.S. President," they proclaim. But there is hardly a West European who would agree to Washington politicians deciding the fate of those who live between the Elbe and the channel.

Recollections of the cost to the Vietnamese people of the Pentagon's military actions, which were also undertaken "for the sake of the defense of the freedom and security of the Vietnamese," are still alive in the people's memory. The question put by West German scholar and specialist in international affairs Johann (Galtung) is a reasonable one: "Would the Americans recommend the use of the neutron bomb on their own territory? Or is it intended for second-class people, that is, for the inhabitants of Western Europe?"

Unknown NATO experts are also trying to advance an "argument" against the assertion that from the political viewpoint there are no grounds for creating the neutron bomb. The rejection of this weapon, they allege, "would cast doubt on NATO's desire for self-assertion;...NATO's back would be broken."

In printing the "theses" of the NATO experts, Springer's DIE WELT has unwittingly confirmed how incompatible with man's vital interests is the absurd "logic" of the supporters of the neutron bomb. To intensify the struggle against its creation--that is the answer of people of good will to the monstrous revelations of the bomb's advocates.

FRG'S GENSCHER ATTACKED FOR VIEWS ON NEUTRON BOMB, AFRICA

LD272240Y Moscow TASS in English 2150 GMT 27 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 27, TASS--TASS commentator Vladimir Petrov writes:

In an interview to the West German newspaper BILD ZEITUNG the FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said that "neither temptation nor threats from the East" will influence NATO's decision on whether to include the neutron bomb in its armoury. Striving to justify this stand, obviously contradicting the spirit of the time, and the interests of the detente, Genscher claimed that in the sphere of armaments the East was allegedly "making efforts, which transcend the limits of necessity."

The insolvency of these arguments, if one can call them so, is perfectly obvious. It is common knowledge that precisely the Soviet Union, loyal to its policy of peace, is consistently coming out for the curbing of the arms race and for disarmament, including general and complete disarmament, that it is the author of numerous constructive initiatives in this domain. It is well-known that precisely the Soviet Union offered the West to reach agreement on the mutual renunciation of the production of the neutron bomb. It is not the Soviet Union's fault that this genuinely peaceloving proposal is running up against the resistance of the arms race advocates in several NATO countries, including the FRG. As to the inventions concerning the mythical "Soviet threat" the reason for these fabrications is an open secret: Definite Western circles are using them as a screen for covering up their own line of intensifying the arms race.

In this desire to cast aspersions on the Soviet Union's policy the West German foreign minister did not limit himself to fabrications about the "Soviet menace" to the West. He is striving to find this "menace" in Africa, where the Soviet Union allegedly pursues the purpose of "establishing a sphere of influence" of its own. The falsehood of these assertions is so obvious that it is not worth denying them. It is perfectly well known that the USSR, which sides in Africa, as throughout the world, with the forces of progress, democracy and national independence, pursues no selfish goals, seeks no concessions, does not strive for political domination or for military bases.

The question arises, however: Why did Mr Genscher resort to fabrications concerning the Soviet Union's "secret goals" in Africa? Replying to this question, one cannot help recalling numerous facts, showing that the West German concerns, including military ones, are becoming ever more active recently in the African Continent. Is not this borne out, for instance, by the activity of the West German Orbital Transport Und Raketen (OTRAG) in Zaire, where a missile proving ground is being created, which, as stressed by the press, is to be an important NATO strongpoint in Africa?

This, naturally, causes growing anxiety of the African and international public circles, and now, on the eve of his tour of several African countries, Mr Genscher tried, by distorting the Soviet Union's policy in Africa, to divert the attention of public opinion from the unseemly doings in the African Continent, putting it mildly, of the FRG military-industrial complex, linked with NATO. Such attempts to shift the blame on somebody else are just as insolvent as the endeavours to justify by the mythical "Soviet menace" the new brutal weapon invented by the Pentagon.

KUDRYAVTSEV ASSESSES AAPSO PRESIDIUM SESSION IN NICOSIA

LD281447Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Feb 78 Morming Edition p 3 LD

[Article by V. Kudryavtsev, deputy chairman of the Soviet Committee of Asian and African Countries: "The Great Strength of Solidarity"]

[Text] The sixth session of the AAPSO Presidium held in February in Nicosia, the capital of Cyprus, was convened at an extremely portentous stage of this progressive movement. It was the organization's 20th anniversary. During all this time it has grown and reached maturity, and its prestige among the broadest circles of Afro-Asian society has strengthened. AAPSO is on the eve of its sixth congress, scheduled for the end of the year. The congress is to sum up the results of its 5-year activity and outline the future plan of action in the extremely complex situations created in Asia and particularly in the Near East and in Africa. The delegation of the Soviet Committee of Solidarity with the Asian and African Countries, led by its Chairman M.A. Ibragimov, took an active part in the work of the session.

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The session was marred by the tragic death of AAPSO Secretary General Yusuf as-Siba'i, who fell at the hands of terrorists. This criminal act was aggravated by the unprecedented interference of the Egyptian authorities in the internal affairs of Cyprus. The attack by Egyptian commandos on Cyprus' Larnaca Airport threatens to exacerbate even more the situation in the Near East and in the Eastern Mediterranean, which has already been complicated as a result of Cairo's separatist policy. Taken as a whole, all this is objectively directed against such an influential and progressive movement as the solidarity movement. The U.S. President's approval of the Egyptian Government's Larnaca venture simply confirms against whom the blow was struck.

However, the questions discussed at the session and the decisions taken by it speak of the political maturity of AAPSO, of the fact that it has withstood the test and is prepared to continue and deepen the struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, racism and Zionism.

The general declaration of the session described extremely precisely and definitely the international situation and the tasks stemming from it for the solidarity movement. Recent events on the African Continent, in the Near East and in Southeast Asia show that imperialism, primarily the United States, has gone on the offensive against progressive forces represented by both the national liberation movements and the progressive states of the Asian and African Continents. However, this offensive is determined not by imperialism's increased strength but by fear of further successes by the liberation movements of the Asian and African peoples and by a desperate attempt to reap revenge for the defeats of recent years. The solidarity movement emerges in the new period of its struggle with profound confidence in its strength and capabilities.

The breadth of the tasks set by the Nicosia session is extremely characteristic of the present stage of the solidarity movement. Even in earlier times the movement never confined itself to the geographical borders of the Asian and African Continents. The independent countries of these continents entered the broad arena of international activity, as evidenced by their increased role and activity in the United Nations and other international forums. The unusual amount of attention which the session paid to questions of relaxation of tension, the cessation of the arms race and the prohibition of nuclear weapons, including the production of the neutron bomb, is indicative of AAPSO's responsibility for the future of Asia and Africa. The session advocated the immediate conclusion of a world treaty on the nonuse of force in international relations.

The session paid great attention to the situation in the Middle East. Its participants decisively condemned the separatism of the Egyptian Government, calling it a betrayal of general Arab interests. It exposed the far-reaching plans of American imperialism in the Near East, particularly in the Red Sea region. It must be noted that in analyzing the situation in the Near East the session adopted a clear-cut position regarding the role of local reaction--the accomplice of imperialist schemes--and ardently supported the position of the Arab countries, which created a "front of steadfastness and resistance" at the conferences in Tripoli and Algiers. To strengthen the unity of progressive forces on all fronts of the struggle against imperialism and local reaction--this idea is central to all the decisions of the AAPSO session.

The session participants came out in favor of an all-embracing, comprehensive settlement of the Near East crisis. The session passed a special resolution in support of the Palestine resistance movement led by the only legitimate spokesman of the interests of the Palestinian Arabs, the Palestine Liberation Organization. It stresses that the Palestinian problem is one of the key problems of the entire Near East and that the settlement of the crisis as a whole is inconceivable without its resolutions.

The session harshly condemned the policy of the imperialists, racists and South African collaborationists who are trying by deceitful maneuvers to preserve Rhodesia as a racist state camouflaged only by an African mask, to transform Namibia into a neocolonialist formation and to leave the basis of the apartheid system in the South African Republic inviolable. Both the Anglo-American plan and the "internal settlement" between Ian Smith and the betrayers of the Zimbabwe people are aimed at this. AAPSO expressed its determination to struggle for the immediate transfer of power in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) into the hands of the African majority, which must arrange its destiny for itself, and for granting independence to Namibia and abolishing the apartheid system in the Republic of South Africa.

The session called for a negotiated settlement of the armed conflicts in the Horn of Africa, west Sahara and north Chad within the OAU framework, and also for a peaceful settlement of the situation which has arisen in Southeast Asia between Vietnam and Cambodia. The session stressed that the imperialists and their minions are using all these conflicts, which harm the unity and solidarity of the progressive forces, for their own selfish aims.

AAPSO's Nicosia session noted that the growing prestige and influence of the world socialist system is exerting a tremendous influence on the development of the struggle against imperialism and racism. The session assessed highly the peace initiatives of the Soviet Union, the loyal friend and most reliable ally of all the people struggling against imperialism, neocolonialism and racism.

USSR PROTESTS ZIONIST ANTI-SOVIET DEMONSTRATION AT UN

LD011230Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 1 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The Permanent USSR Mission to the United Nations has made a resolute protest in connection with the hostile demonstrations by Zionist and other reactionary organizations staged near the building of the Soviet Mission in New York.

The protest noted addressed to the U.S. Mission to the United Nations says that on 26 and 27 February a small group of hooligan elements staged an anti-Soviet meeting near the building of the USSR Mission. With the connivance of the official U.S. authorities and the New York police they tried to block the entrance to the mission.

KOSYGIN, UN DEPUTY CHIEF DISCUSS ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

LD281320Y Moscow TASS in English 1213 GMT 28 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 28, TASS--Great significance is attached in the Soviet Union to questions of environmental protection, and the resolution of this problem in the USSR deserves the highest appreciation, a TASS correspondent was told by deputy UN secretary general, Executive Director of the UN Environment Program (UNEP) Mustafa Tolba. These questions are worthily reflected in the decisions of the 25th Congress of the CPSU, in the Soviet laws and decisions of the USSR Government, he stressed.

It is also extremely important that the general secretary, of the CPSU CC, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Leonid Brezhnev devotes great attention to the environmental problems, Mustafa Tolba noted.

The UNEP executive director expressed full support for the proposal put forward by him on the holding of an all-European congress or an interstate conference on questions of cooperation in the field of environmental protection. We are ready to start preparing for such a meeting. Now everything depends on the states, which signed the final act, he said.

The UN deputy secretary general stressed that the Soviet Constitution provides for the necessary measures for the protection and scientifically substantiated rational use of land and its mineral resources, water resources, the vegetable and animal world, for the preservation of the purity of the air and water, for ensuring the reproduction of natural wealth and improvement of the environment. The appropriate article of the fundamental law of the USSR clearly defines the attitude of the Soviet state to nature, on whose state the future of the whole mankind depends in the long run, he said.

A convincing evidence of the Soviet Union's solicitude for the preservation of the environment is the fact, Mustafa Tolba went on to say, that 11,000 million roubles are appropriated in the Tenth Five Year Plan period on the development of the national economy of the USSR (1976-1980), on measures in connection with the protection of nature. This figure speaks for itself, the UNEP director stressed.

During his stay in the Soviet Union Mustafa Tolba was received by Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Aleksey Kosygin, their conversation covering questions pertaining to the development of international cooperation in environmental protection and rational use of natural resources.

The UNEP director spoke highly about the Soviet Union's support for the UNEP activity. He noted that cooperation with Soviet organizations has good prospects, which is exemplified by the agreement on joint work between the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology and UNEP. We intend to use widely Soviet experience in a number of projects, he said.

The UN deputy secretary general positively evaluated the Soviet Union's line towards general and complete disarmament. Answering questions on aggressive plans for the production of the neutron bomb and its development in the NATO countries, he declared against all kinds of mass destruction weapons negatively affecting environment. Mustafa Tolba stressed that it is necessary to end the senseless arms race, bringing only sufferings and misfortunes to peoples.

Agreements Signed

LD2721417 Moscow TASS in English 1946 GMT 27 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 27, TASS--Agreements on several joint projects in the protection of the environment were signed here today between the Soviet Committee for Science and Technology and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). They provide for cooperation in the creation of a large Gobi preserve in Mongolia, organization in the USSR of courses for representatives of the developing countries to combat desertisation, assistance in the holding in Moscow of the 14th international congress of geneticists, organization of several study trips in the Soviet Union.

Gennadiy Aleksenko, deputy chairman of the Soviet committee, spoke highly of the signed documents. In his opinion, they open up new prospects for fruitful cooperation between Soviet organizations and UNEP, to which the USSR attaches great importance.

The agreements were signed for UNEP by the assistant secretary general of the United Nations, Executive Director of the programme Mustafa Tolba. The experience of the Soviet Union in many spheres is of substantial interest and this is why UNEP's cooperation with the Soviet organizations has bright prospects, he said. Thus, specialists of many countries will familiarize themselves in 1978-1979 land utilization.

Mustafa Tolba is staying here at the invitation of the Soviet Committee for Science and Technology. In the course of the negotiations in different organizations he is discussing questions of further expanding relations between UNEP and the USSR.

WALDHEIM CALLS DISARMAMENT MOST URGENT WORLD PROBLEM

LD280752Y Moscow TASS in English 0730 GMT 28 Feb 78 LD

[Text] New York, February 28, TASS--U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim again emphasized an imperative necessity to solve the most burning and urgent problem of our times: to curb the arms race and achieve disarmament. Kurt Waldheim's address, issued here, to the participants in an international non-governmental organizations' conference on disarmament, emphasizes that the duty of the world community is to muster all its energies and strengthen international cooperation in the name of ending the arms race.

UN PREPARATORY COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT ENDS WORK

LD251138Y Moscow TASS in English 1121 GMT 25 Feb 78 LD

[Text] New York, February 25, TASS--The preparatory committee for the convocation of the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on disarmament, to be held in May-June of this year in New York, has concluded its work.

The working documents of the socialist countries--the delcaration and the program of action on disarmament that were discussed by the committee set out specific proposals on questions of disarmament and curbing the arms race.

Highly assessed were the new peace proposals of the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Leonid Brezhnev for a simultaneous halt in the production of nuclear weapons by all states and a moratorium covering nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes along with a ban on all nuclear tests for a definite period.

During the committee's work, it was noted with profound concern that the enemies of detente who seek to continue the arms race and preserve international tension stepped their activity in a number of Western countries. Representatives of the socialist countries and of a number of other peace-loving countries strongly condemned the plans of creating and deploying neutron weapons.

The question about the world conference on disarmament was also discussed. It is believed here that this conference must become a truly world-wide forum that will make it possible to make transition to practical work to agree on effective decisions aimed at ridding mankind of the threat of a nuclear war.

The preparatory committee for the convocation of the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on disarmament will meet here again early in April.

CEMA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DISCUSSES TRANSPORATION

LD242304Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0935 GMT 24 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow--TASS economic observer Vladimir Chernyshev writes:

The importance of transportation is constantly growing in the economic development of the CEMA member-countries. It suffices to say that their means of transportation now carry out up to 20 per cent of the work of world transportation and this proportion is tending to increase.

At the 84th meeting of the CEMA Executive Committee, which took place in Moscow recently, a number of measures were outlined to broaden and perfect the system of foreign trade transportation. It was decided to improve planning, to secure a more even freight flow, to perfect the packing of loads and to expand container transportation.

The measures outlined are to be implemented by all CEMA participants comprehensively with a precise distribution of duties and coordination of joint efforts in the framework of a unified long-term target program for cooperation in transportation.

If one only takes Soviet exchanges with the other CEMA countries and Yugoslavia during the current 5-year period it will amount to R145 billion. This means an increase of 79 percent over the level of the previous 5-year period. It is understandable that transportation is called upon to play an immense role in the turnover of foreign trade.

The transportation communications of the CEMA countries reflect their joint actions in the main trends of economic development. Thus about half of the export cargoes transported between them already fall into the category of energy deliveries, first of all oil and oil products, approximately 29 percent, and also ores, up to 18 percent. As calculations show, by the year 1980 over half of the mutual freight transportation will be by railroad; pipeline transportation will have one quarter and sea transportation some 18 percent of its volume.

The long-term coordination of national economic plans, which have become the norm for cooperation in the present conditions of the international socialist division of labor, enable the fraternal countries to determine the basic directions and tasks for further interaction in the transportation field up to 1990.

It is being implemented according to plans which have been coordinated reciprocally and envisages the technical reconstruction of the railroad network, the development and improvement of the system of roads, sea ports and airports. The attention of the fraternal countries is now concentrated on a precise distribution between the various transportation methods and on the development of the throughput capacity of the international trunklines. All this will lead to a more rational use of the transportation capacities of the CEMA member states.

The long-term target program for transportation is a new form of interaction between the fraternal countries in the area of planning. Its implementation will make it possible to solve the tasks of socialist economic integration even more successfully.

UNITED STATES

MOVES TO HAMPER DETENTE MAKE U.S. PUBLIC APPREHENSIVE

LD281453Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 28 Feb 78 LD

[Yuriy Soltan commentary]

[Text] The U.S. public devotes heightened attention to the present situation in Soviet-U.S. relations. Here is Yuriy Soltan, our Washington correspondent: Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev's words about the need to undertake new efforts in order to impart dynamism to these relations, to lead them out of the blind alley, have been received with approval here. Such an opinion, judging by an opinion poll carried out in the United States, is shared by many Americans. Moreover, most of them rightly think that a Soviet-U.S. agreement on limitation of strategic offensive arms would become an important element in improving relations between the two countries.

The Washington administration, in a special announcement, also expressed the very same viewpoint. But no matter how important such official announcements are in themselves, they do lose their meaning if they are not supported by concrete action. In the meantime, the matter of concluding a new agreement was slowed down, through the fault of precisely the United States which, at the disarmament talks, put forward proposals that violate the principle of equal security of the sides. Nor is it possible to ignore the administration's efforts, with the support of a group of conservative politicians in the Congress, to unleash in the United States a new round of the arms race. Here, stress is being laid on long-term programs of creating the new types and systems of nuclear missiles; of the so-called cruise and mobile strategic missiles, neutron bombs, the Trident missile for atomic submarines and the like.

Harold Brown, the U.S. defense secretary, ordered that work on the appropriate plans on the basis of which cruise missiles with a radius of action of 2,400 km and mobile missiles with separable warheads with a radius of action exceeding 3,000 km will form the main NATO arsenal, be completed in March.

Even officials in Washington, in the words of the Washington POST, realize that such plans can complicate the Soviet-U.S. talks on limitation of missile-nuclear arms even more. As a justification for such a course Americans are given all sorts of reports, interviews with retired and serving military men, including secret documents which turn out to be at the disposal of the press and television and which force through the false thesis about the growing threat on the Soviet Union's part, allegedly facing the United States with the necessity of speedily adopting measures to increase arms.

But more and more Americans understand that it is by no means the growth of a Soviet military threat but the voracious appetites of the U.S. military monopolies, the striving of certain U.S. circles to make Soviet-U.S. relations more acute, to hamper the detente process, that determine the course (?aimed at militarization of the country). It is this that causes a growing apprehension of the American public.

MILITARIST ORIENTATION OF U.S. BUDGET CONDEMNED

LD281312Y Moscow TASS in English 1235 GMT 28 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Washington, February 28 TASS--TASS correspondent Yuriy Levchenko reports:

The draft federal budget for the 1979 fiscal year which is under U.S. Congress's consideration is being increasingly criticised in the United States. American public and political figures and organisations view the White House financial programme as a step towards further militarisation of the country and a step-up of the arms race. The coalition for new foreign and military policy firmly condemned a further budget-provided increase in military expenditure. The coalition unites tens of anti-war, public, trade-union and church organisations of the USA. The statement issued by the coalition emphasises that President Carter buried in oblivion his pre-election promises to cut the military budget, by suggesting that it be increased by 12 billion dollars in the next fiscal year as compared with the previous one and brought up to 128.4 billion dollars. The statement stresses that the suggested growth of military expenditure is simply unjustified, considering the relative stability of the international situation and the support by most of the American people for non-military solutions to international problems. The statement says further that the Carter administration was led by those who would like to spiral military spending still more, failing to reckon with a wide opposition of the public. The statement emphasises that the most serious threat to the USA comes not from the outside, but from the inside. The statement points out that a build-up of armaments will not remove the threat but on the contrary will exacerbate it still more. Such widely-representative public organisations as the Americans for Democratic Action, the Conference of Mayors of American cities and the National Urban League also condemned the militarist orientation of the budget and the government's course toward economising means at the expense of cutting down social programmes.

SECRETARY BROWN'S SPEECH TERMED FLAGRANT SABER RATTLING

ID281229Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Feb 78 p 3 LD

[Text] New York, 23 February TASS--Defense Secretary H. Brown gave an account to the Los Angeles World Affairs Council of the "new" U.S. military doctrine on the Near East and Asia, which includes open preaching of the imperialism goals of American policy in those areas.

In the speech, evaluated by the local press as "the toughest of all the administration's speeches," Brown placed particular emphasis on American "military interests" in the "highly volatile"--as he put it--region of the Near East and the Persian Gulf. He stated that these go beyond the framework of Arab-Israeli problems and are directly connected with oil. The Pentagon chief asserted: "Insofar as the world's largest oil reserves are in this area, the Near East and the Persian Gulf cannot be separated from our security, the security of NATO and that of our allies in Asia." The United States, he continued, "intends to safeguard oil extraction and its transportation to consumer countries" and with this aim is planning to deploy more than three divisions of its armed forces in the Near East and the Persian Gulf region, forces which "could rapidly react to disorders in that region."

Political observers here regard this statement as an indication that the United States is prepared for armed interference in the internal affairs of countries in that region, if events develop in a direction unfavorable for Washington. The journal NATION writes in this connection that under the cover of talks "on arms control" the United States "is preparing for possible intervention in the Near East or the Persian Gulf region." Another weekly, U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, reports that the United States has already begun to create "crack strike armed forces, ready at the first signal to be transferred to any part of the world." Initially the composition of this interventionist expeditionary corps includes an airborne division, an airborne assault division and one Marine division.

The defense secretary also set out a broad program for increasing American military might in Asia, which, in his words, must retain for the United States the role of "one of the main forces in the Pacific." To justify a new round in the arms race the Pentagon leader repeated the usual inventions about a "Soviet threat." Here he referred to "firm U.S. commitments in the Pacific" and stated that the United States must be militarily strong both in Europe and in Asia.

In the next 5 years, Brown announced, the United States intends to introduce into that region Trident nuclear submarines, cruise missiles, additional formations of F-14 and F-15 fighter planes and long-range location and guidance systems. The United States, he said, will also "modernize and increase its Pacific Fleet, inasmuch as this is permitted by the current shipbuilding program."

The Pentagon chief's flagrant saber rattling is in blatant contradiction to the Washington administration's public statements of its interest in reducing the danger of war and curbing the arms race. This kind of speech does not answer the spirit of the time and cuts across efforts aimed at lessening international tension.

U.S. ENVOY'S ACTIVITY IN ITALY BORDERS ON INTERFERENCE

LD282040Y Moscow TASS in English 1946 GMT 28 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 28, TASS--The U.S. ambassador in Italy, Richard Gardner, has long since been conducting activity which borders on outright interference in the internal affairs of the country, says today's issue of IZVESTIYA. The newspaper notes that the statements of this American diplomat to the effect that he does not intend to be the American ambassador responsible for Italy's hand-over to the communists have been received with indignation in Italy. He also permitted himself to furnish the press with characteristics of individual trends in the Christian-Democratic Party to show which are preferable to the United States.

Recently, IZVESTIYA continues, Gardner delivered a lecture in Turin in which he self-conceitedly offered advice concerning the ways of settling the internal economic problems of the country and again revealed his anti-communist sentiments. It is quite natural that a man with such convictions is alarmed by the progress of the left-wing forces in Italy. As pointed out by the newspaper, the U.S. ambassador in Italy left for the second time during the government crisis in the country for "consultations" in Washington. "Will Gardner receive the blessing for new forms of blackmail and pressure, impermissible in normal relations between sovereign states?"

ENRICHED URANIUM MAY HAVE BEEN STOLEN FROM U.S.

LD282232Y Moscow TASS in English 2229 GMT 28 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Washington, February 28, TASS--Lee Gossik, a senior staff-member of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, admitted on Monday that 200 pounds of enriched uranium, that disappeared in 1965 from a nuclear depot in Apollo, Pennsylvania, might have been stolen. Lee Gossik's admission assumes a sinister meaning if one takes into account numerous press reports saying that American companies for a number of years secretly supplied fissionable materials to Israel.

Last year this commission, under the pressure of American public, alarmed by mass "leakage" of atomic raw materials, has revised "nuclear accountability" of a number of companies dealing with fissionable materials. The commission discovered 700 discrepancies in documents of 30 American companies, including Westinghouse, General Electric, General Atomics. According to the newspaper Washington POST, representatives of the commission discovered by documents the disappearance of a thousand tonnes of the raw material that can be used to make nuclear bombs.

Noteworthy in this respect is the fate of the Sheersberg ship, which "disappeared" in 1968 with 200 tonnes of uranium aboard. According to (?the TIME), the freight that can be used to make more than one nuclear bomb was "found" in Israel.

USSR, U.S. DELEGATES DISCUSS SPACE COOPERATION

LD281245Y Moscow TASS in English 1227 GMT 28 Feb 78 LD

[Text] New York, February 28, TASS--TASS correspondent Vladimir Matyash reports:

The fruitfulness of international cooperation in the study and exploration of outer space for the good of the whole of mankind was again reaffirmed at a session of the scientific and technical subcommittee of the U.N. Committee on Peaceful uses of Outer Space. The session is drawing to an end here. Such cooperation admittedly serves to strengthen mutual trust and understanding between peoples and brings the peoples of various countries and continents closer together.

Emphasised during the session was, in particular, the necessity to further develop cooperation between various countries in scientific and applied areas of cosmonautics, including joint research in the near-Earth space, the Moon and other planets, in the area of space biology and medicine, space meterology and the study of the Earth's natural resources.

The U.S. delegation gave a favourable appraisal of the agreement between the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the USSR Academy of Sciences, which envisages the possibility of joint experimental flights of the Soviet long-functioning orbital station of Salyut type and the American "shuttle" spaceship (the Salyut-shuttle programme).

Academician Yevgeniy Fedorov, the head of the Soviet delegation, said the latest successes of Soviet cosmonautics and first of all the space experiment with the use of the "Progress-1" cargo spacecraft open up a new page in space exploration and will make it possible to accomplish the widest range of missions in outer space in the interests of progress of science and technology and the entire mankind.

ANNIVERSARY OF ROMANIAN PARTY UNIFICATION NOTED

LD241625Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Feb 78 p 4 LD

[Own correspondent F. Angeli dispatch: "Leading Force"]

[Text] Bucharest, 22 February--This is the 30th anniversary of the unification of the communist and social democratic parties into a single working class party.

The decisions of the Unification Party Congress held 21-23 February 1948 put forward the main tasks of socialist building. In particular, the special importance of the friendship, cooperation and mutual aid treaty with the Soviet Union was stressed. The friendly relations between Romania and the USSR, the congress materials pointed out, contribute to strengthening Romania's political and economic independence.

The great successes which the fraternal Romanian people have achieved in creating the new system testify that the Romanian Communist Party is worthily fulfilling the role of political leader [vozhd] of the working class and all the country's working people. Its ranks are constantly growing and strengthening. The RCP now numbers more than 2.7 million people, of whom 72 percent work directly in material production. Workers account for more than 50 percent of all party members--something which reflects the leading role of the working class in Romanian society's life.

KUZNETSOV LEAVES MOSCOW FOR BULGARIAN ANNIVERSARY FETE

LD010635Y Moscow TASS in English 0619 GMT 1 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 1, TASS--A Soviet delegation led by alternate member of the Politbureau of the CPSU Central Committee, First Vice-President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Vasiliy Kuznetsov has left Moscow for Sofia today. The delegation will attend celebrations to mark the centenary of Bulgaria's liberation from the Ottoman yoke.

BCP LEADER CONGRATULATES MASHEROV ON AWARDS

AU242108Y Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1830 GMT 24 Feb 78 AU

[Text] Today Dimitur Zhulev, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of Bulgaria to the USSR, presented a letter of greetings at the Bulgarian Embassy in Moscow from Todor Zhivkov, first secretary of the BCP Central Committee and chairman of Bulgaria's State Council, to Petr Masherov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of the Belorussian CP Central Committee.

In this letter Comrade Todor Zhivkov most cordially greets Petr Masherov on the occasion of his 60th birthday and on the presentation of the highest Soviet awards to him, as well as on the presentation to him of the Georgi Dimitrov Order, the highest Bulgarian award.

ILLEGALITIES BY CANADIAN POLICE ON CITIZENS REPORTED

ID271150Y Moscow in English to North America 0030 GMT 27 Feb 78 ID

[Text] New facts have come to light about the illegal activity of the Canadian federal police and its spying on citizens. It is reported that the police have been spying not only on leftwing and progressive organizations but also on high-ranking government officials and politicians. From 1971 until 1975 electronic spying continued on a number of government officials, including a member of parliament Mr Rodrigues and also on the headquarters of the New Democratic Party in British Columbia.

CANADIAN MP'S ANTI-SOVIET 'SPYSCARE' REMARKS SCORED

ID241838Y Moscow TASS in English 1801 GMT 24 Feb 78 ID

[Text] Moscow, February 24 TASS--TASS commentator Vasiliy Kharkov writes:

Conservative deputy to the Canadian Parliament Tom Cossitt, notorious for his demagogic statements, came out with a new fabrication. Apparently seeking to please certain quarters in Canada and outside it, who would like to complicate goodneighbourly Canadian-Soviet relations, Cossit on February 23 again rose in Parliament for a new harping session on mythical Soviet "subversive activities" in Canada. This time he chose as the topic for his inventions an utterly ungrounded charge against some Soviet representatives alleging that several years ago they tried to obtain "secret documents" from some "two Canadian Government officials".

Mr. Cossit's close links with the local special services and the CIA of the USA, are no secret in Canada. Nor does he really deny the sources of his false information. Tom Cossitt simply appears as a peculiar mouthpiece of those services, which resort to anti-Soviet insinuations as a means of somehow propping up their strongly damaged reputation as a result of exposures of their unseemly deeds.

Tom Cossitt has recently come out with a whole series of provocative inventions, obviously aimed at fanning up a spyscare campaign in Canada. The absurdity of these publications is so obvious that many colleagues of this parliamentarian in the Conservative Party regard them, to say the least, absolutely inconsistent. The general solicitor of Canada Jean Jacques Blai described them simply as "panicky". Nevertheless, Mr. Tom Cossitt keeps trying. He carries on his dirty tricks in the interests of forces that would like to use them as a kind of background in preparation for the forthcoming elections to Canada's Federal Parliament.

OECD SESSION IN PARIS FAILS TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES

ID282232Y Moscow TASS in English 2156 GMT 28 Feb 78 ID

[Text] Paris, February 28, TASS--Correspondent Aleksandr Mandrov reports:

The two-day conference held here by the committee on economic policy of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development brought out considerable disagreements. Experts from 24 principal capitalist states had to note the continuing growth of inflation and big foreign trade and balance of payments deficits of a number of big states as well as stiff competition in Western world and the worsening of the general crisis of the capitalist economy.

This conference was regarded by its sponsors as a major stage in preparations for the planned April meetings of the International Monetary Fund and a summit meeting of the Common Market countries.

It is said in circles close to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development that this new attempt to resolve contradictions on the problems and ways of resolving a protracted crisis of the Western economy actually ended in failure again. The newspaper LE MONDE says that every one of the partners is trying to resolve difficulties at expense of others.

The United States, Japan, and the FRG reportedly refused again to play the role of "locomotives" of the Western economy, that is to take steps to stimulate artificially domestic consumption in their countries which, OECD experts hope, might help the other countries to get out of the quagmire of the crisis by increasing their exports.

Participants in the two-day conference failed to draft any concrete measures to overcome protectionism and rivalry between OECD countries. They limited themselves to traditionally calls for "economic solidarity" in face of insoluble differences between the OECD countries.

Economic difficulties in the OECD countries, says the French democratic press, affect first of all the working masses. According to preliminary estimates inflation rates in these countries are to exceed on the average of 7 percent and in the West European zone they will reach 8.5 per cent. The growth of prices is forecast in similar proportions. By the end of 1978 the army of unemployed in the OECD countries is to increase by 700,000 compared with last year to reach 17 million. 5.5 to 6.0 per cent of the labour force in these countries will be out of work.

WHITE PAPER REPORTS INCREASED MILITARY BUDGET IN UK

LD2'1719Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Feb 78 p 5 LD

[Vsevolod Ovchinnikov Report: "Contrary to Promises"]

[Text] London--British military expenditure in the 1978-79 fiscal year will be 6.919 billion pounds sterling, the White Paper just published by the government states. Commenting on this document Defense Secretary Mulley has confirmed that both this year and next British military expenditures will increase 3 percent in accordance with NATO commitments.

The concession to the NATO hawks which, as usual, is motivated by the "Soviet military threat," in practice means the Labor Party's rejection of its election promise to reduce the proportion of national resources spent on defense to the level of other West European NATO countries. The military expenditure envisaged in the White Paper amounts to 4.75 percent of Britain's GNP. That is, it exceeds the average indicator of its European NATO allies.

"Just pause for a moment to imagine what we could do with the near 7 billion we are spending annually on arms!" The MORNING STAR newspaper writes in an editorial article. "Once again the myth of a Soviet threat to Britain's security is paraded before us to justify pouring billions into the coffers of the merchants of death. Of course the Soviet Union has powerful military forces. That is no secret. But the media manipulators are trying to keep a closely guarded secret the fact that no other country acts as so consistent and persistent a champion of universal disarmament as the Soviet Union where there are no arms manufacturers to benefit from military orders."

The White Paper on defense has also aroused a wave of critical comment from the left wing of the Labor Party. "The threat to mankind is not a Russian invasion but the arms race itself, which is taking us all toward a nuclear war," Frank Allaun, chairman of the Labor Action for Peace Group, has stated.

In publishing the White Paper, Britain's Labor Government has essentially openly admitted that henceforth, contrary to promises to reduce military expenditure, its main guideline in foreign policy is NATO's course toward building up military budgets. Is this the right time? After all, the approach of parliamentary elections can be felt increasingly clearly on the British political horizon. Can a step taken in the opposite direction to the promises of the previous election manifesto attract many new votes at such a moment?

'SERIOUS CONCERN' IN AUSTRIA OVER FRG ESPIONAGE

LD281603Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Feb 78 p 5 LD

[Correspondent I. Melnikov dispatch: "'Bugs' in Innsbruck"]

[Text] Vienna, 20 February--The scandal about MAD, the West German military counter-intelligence agency, which was involved in shadowing civil servants at the FRG Defense Ministry, has exceeded national bounds. It is now attracting the attention of the Austrians. The reason for this is not simply the sensational nature of the affair which stemmed from the resignation of G. Leber, the Bonn defense minister. Broad circles of the local public are expressing serious concern in connection with the facts which have become public about the arbitrary acts of West German agents on the territory of neutral Austria.

Austrian television devoted a special broadcast to the "bugs" (the Western press with bitter irony named the miniature listening devices in this way) which, without the knowledge of the Austrian authorities and therefore unhindered, were taken across the borders of an independent sovereign state and widely used in a foreign land.

Federal Chancellor B. Kreisky assessed the acts of the West German military counter-intelligence on the neutral territory of Austria as a serious violation of the country's sovereignty.

Austria's progressive public is indignant at the actions of the West German agency on it's sovereign territory. In his statement Erwin Scharf, Politburo member and secretary of the Communist Party of Austria Central Committee, demanded that the Austrian Government make a decisive protest to the FRG authorities.

LISBON OFFICIAL DENOUNCES EEC TEXTILE PROTECTIONISM

LD271144Y Moscow TASS in English 1132 GMT 27 Feb 78 LD

[Text] London, February 27, TASS--Vitor Constancio, minister of finance and planning of Portugal, has denounced the Common Market's protectionist policy of trade in textiles.

Upon his return from Brussels, where he negotiated with Lorenzo Natali, deputy chairman of the Commission of European Communities, he said that Portugal is not ready to agree to a further restriction in the exports of its textiles to the EEC countries. Portugal's particular concern, the FINANCIAL TIMES writes in this connection, is caused by a possibility of a rise in import duties on Portuguese textiles, which is now being discussed in some Common Market countries.

The Portuguese minister's statement (rivets?) the attention once again to problems of enlarging the European "Nine" through granting membership to such countries as Portugal, Spain and Greece. In a bid to draw these countries into its orbit, the Common Market, above all, proceeds from political considerations, disregards their vital interests. The current differences with Portugal are a patent illustration: textiles and clothes now constitute about 50 percent of Portuguese total exports. The EEC countries account for the bulk of these exports.

CUNHAL HITS PS' ALLIANCE WITH RIGHT, URGES TALKS

LD280811Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Feb 78 p 4 LD

[Correspondent B. Kotov dispatch: "Cunhal Speech"]

[Text] Lisbon, 20 February--The creation of a government coalition of the Socialist Party [PS] and the Social Democratic Center shows that the socialist leaders have gone too far along the path of capitulation to the rightist forces and along the path of renouncing their own party program, A. Cunhal, secretary general of the Portuguese Communist Party [PCP], stated when addressing communists in the city of Alpiarca. The government crisis which led last December to the fall of the cabinet, he said, was not only the consequence of the error of the "one-party" formula of the socialist government, which in fact operated in alliance with the rightwing, but also the result of the failure of its policy.

Speaking about the talks held between the communist and socialist parties during the government crisis Cunhal noted that, despite the progress achieved, no agreement was reached. The PS did not want to enter an agreement with the PCP on such important questions as agrarian reform and nationalization. The PCP secretary general confirmed the Communist Party's readiness to continue talks with the PS.

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS CRITICIZED OVER ITALIAN CRISIS

LD271534Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1135 GMT 27 Feb 78 LD

[Summary] Rome--TASS correspondent Vladimir Malyshev reports on the 6-week old government crisis in Italy:

"Christian Democrats [DC] have so far failed to come up with a clear answer to the demands of other parties that a new political leadership with the participation of the Communist Party should be set up in Italy. It is precisely this that forms the main obstacle along the path to settling the crisis." There are also sharp differences concerning the program for economic and social reform.

"The Italian Communist Party [PCI] comes out for the speediest possible positive settlement of the crisis. Enrico Berlinguer, secretary general of the PCI, speaking at a mass meeting in Turin on Sunday, said: We still believe that the best decision would be to set up an emergency government in the country (with PCI participation--TASS editor). He stressed that at the present stage a parliamentary majority with the Communist Party's participation should be set up at least and he criticized the actions of the DC, which 'is delaying coming up with an answer to the precise demands of the PCI and other parties which causes a growing dissatisfaction of the Italian public.'"

In recent weeks, reactionary forces have been increasingly active. "Washington, which has already more than once grossly interfered in Italy's political life, has again recalled U.S. Ambassador Richard Gardner 'for consultations.' This is his second trip to Washington in recent weeks."

EGYPTIAN LARNACA RAID RASH VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

LD2813172 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Feb 78 Morning Edition p 3 LD

[Article by IZVESTIYA political observer S. Kondrashov: "Concerning the Larnaca Incident"]

[Text] On 18 February the Egyptian writer and public figure Yusuf as-Siba'i, who had been secretary general of AAPSO for many years, was shot at point-blank range and killed at the Nicosia Hilton in Cyprus. On 19 February, at Larnaca International Airport, Cyprus, another 15 Egyptians--"commandos"--were killed. In no way was the second episode the inevitable result of the first. Whereas Yusuf as-Siba'i met his death at the hands of terrorists, the Egyptian soldiers were victims of the behavior of their own government, which failed to display an adequate sense of responsibility and very rashly violated the norms of international law. By their actions the Egyptian authorities had placed on the grave of Yusuf as-Siba'i a wreath composed of 15 of his dead compatriots.

Let us recall the sequence of events. The two terrorists, having killed As-Siba'i and taken hostages, mainly participants in the AAPSO session, demanded an aircraft from the Cypriot authorities so that they could escape abroad. Taking some of the hostages--the Arab AAPSO representatives--they took off in search of a country which would give them refuge. But they did not find one, because terrorism is encountering increasing, unanimous condemnation. From Djibouti they were forced to return to Larnaca Airport.

Meanwhile, having contacted a number of Arab and African heads of state, including President as-Sadat, President Kiprianou warned that Cyprus would assume the task of freeing the hostages and arresting the terrorists. These tactics were approved by all the leaders, including As-Sadat. When the aircraft got back to Larnaca, Kiprianou went to the airport and took charge of the negotiations with the terrorists.

The criminals had been persuaded to surrender and things were drawing to a satisfactory conclusion, when an Egyptian military transport aircraft suddenly appeared in the vicinity of the airport. It requested permission to land and backed up the request by saying that the Egyptian minister of culture and information was on board. This was an intolerable deception aimed at the gross violation of Cyprus' sovereignty. Scarcely had the Egyptian aircraft landed than more than 50 troops emerged and rushed toward the aircraft carrying the terrorists, firing in all directions even in the direction of the control tower, where the Cyprus president was standing. In this situation units of the Cyprus National Guard offered armed resistance to the unexpected and uninvited "rescuers." The outcome is known: Apart from the 15 Egyptians killed, some 19 Egyptians and 7 Cypriots were wounded. The Egyptian aircraft was blown up and destroyed. The Egyptian "commandos" who had given themselves up were sent back to Cairo the next day. The hostages were unharmed and were released. The terrorists were arrested and will appear before a Cypriot court.

Nicosia has sharply condemned the Egyptian action at Larnaca Airport. President Kiprianou stated that the Egyptian Government bears the whole responsibility, since this armed action was carried out despite repeated warnings that any arbitrary actions on Cypriot sovereign territory would not be permitted. This version, which is corrobated by the facts, is accepted by practically everybody. Moreover, according to the evidence of New York TIMES Cairo correspondent C. Wren, "Egyptian officials have privately admitted that their government did not specifically inform Cyprus that the Egyptian military aircraft was carrying...a group of 'commandos.'"

There is no doubt about who is to blame for what took place and for the casualties. London's THE TIMES writes: "An operation to release the hostages, carried out on another country's territory without the consent of that country's government, is tantamount to an 'act of war' not only against the terrorists but also against the state whose sovereignty is being violated."

Meanwhile Cairo, hiding its guilt from the Egyptian people, is compounding matters by following the adventure with a diplomatic scandal. Despite Nicosia's appeals for reason, As-Sadat has broken off relations with the Republic of Cyprus (as it did before, we recall, with a number of Arab states which condemned its capitulationist policy). Although the Palestine Liberation Organization [PLO] and other Palestinian organizations condemned the terrorist murder of As-Siba'i and denied any involvement in it, Cairo has fueled yet another anti-Palestinian campaign, the covert aim of which is to justify the desire for a separate deal with Israel.

In recent years international life has unfortunately been full of acts of political terrorism and the hijacking of aircraft and taking of hostages. Practice has provided various ways of rescuing hostages. There are examples of successful experiences of coordinated actions by different governments as envisaged by international agreements. And there are examples of another kind--whereby the response to individual or group banditry is state banditry and breaking into another country as if it were someone else's apartment. Discussing the Larnaca Airport episode, journalists are reminded of the celebrated raid by Israeli "commandos" on Entebbe Airport in Uganda in July 1976. At the time Egypt condemned this raid as an act of aggression. Yet it is the Israeli method which it has just used. Indeed, whoever lies down with dogs is bound to catch fleas. Cairo was tempted by the idea of showing its military muscles, but its improvization created a hazardous and a bloody situation. It is possible to discern another motive. The organizers of and participants in the Entebbe Airport raid were lauded by Western propaganda and turned into the heroes of books, movies and television films. Clearly Cairo coveted these laurels. Do not the recent events show that certain people in Cairo wanted to surprise the world with stunning sensations and theatrical political gestures? But they don't always win the applause.

International terrorism merits the severest condemnation and most determined counter-measures. It is in the interests of all countries to combat it. But need it be said that international law still applies, and there is still a need to observe the sovereignty of other states? The Larnaca Airport incident shows what deplorable things can happen if the norms of interstate relations are transgressed on the pretext of fighting criminals.

CAIRO USING CYPRUS EVENTS AS PRETEXT FOR ATTACKING PLO

LD2813O1Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Feb 78 Morning Edition p 3 LD

[R. Moseyev report: "Anti-Palestinian Campaign"]

[Text] Cairo--Anti-Palestinian hysteria is growing in Egypt.

Using the events in Cyprus as a pretext, official Egyptian propaganda is now trying to cast a shadow on the Palestine resistance movement and is seeking ways of excluding the Palestine Liberation Organization [PLO] from the process of a Near East settlement. It is no accident that in examining questions of the solution of the Near East conflict, the government-controlled newspapers have recently been keeping totally quiet about the fact that the solution of the Palestinian problem is one of the main conditions of a just peace in this region.

The Near East topic is seen here in the light of the continuing mediation mission of U.S. Assistant Secretary of State A. Atherton, who has arrived in Cairo from Jerusalem for talks with Egyptian officials. This trip by the U.S. diplomat, as is well know, is being made within the framework of the bilateral Egyptian-Israeli contacts, which are leading to a separate deal between Cairo and Tel Aviv to the detriment of the interests of the Palestinian people.

EGYPT SUSPENDS PALESTINIAN PRIVILEGES, REPRESSIONS CONTINUE

LD281948Y Moscow TASS in English 1925 GMT 28 Feb 78 LD

["To the Detriment of the Interests of the Arabs"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, February 28, TASS--TASS commentator Georgiy Kuvaldin writes:

The anti-Palestinian campaign, fanned up in the country by the Egyptian authorities, assumed unprecedented dimensions lately. By decision of the Egyptian Government scores of thousands of Palestinians, residing in Egypt, have been stripped of all privileges, which they enjoyed in employment, property rights and passport regime. This practically reduces them to the status which is close to that existing in the Israel-occupied Arab territories. The Cairo press is full of hysterical anti-Palestinian articles and commentaries, written in abusive terms and abounding in threats. Rude personal attacks are being made on the leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). Thus, the newspaper AL-AHRAM cynically declared the other day that 'Arafat is allegedly a "finished man". The repressions are particularly heavy against the Palestinians that cooperate actively with the PLO. Used as a fig-leaf to cover up the anti-Palestinian campaign in the country is the Larnaca incident. Although it is commonly known that the PLO strongly and publicly condemned the actions of the terrorists immediately after this incident.

The clumsy attempts of the Egyptian authorities to discredit the PLO and its leadership cannot mislead anybody. The present anti-Palestinian line of Cairo is, in fact, a direct continuation of its departure from the all-Arab positions, coordinated at summit meetings, a continuation of the course of separate negotiations, chosen by the Egyptian leadership. "Cairo's present stand, it is noted by the Paris newspaper L'HUMANITE, is met with satisfaction by Tel Aviv and Washington, which have prompted Egypt for several past years to dump the resolutions of the Arab summit meeting in Rabat, which recognises the PLO as the only lawful representative of the Arab people of Palestine". Today the PLO is becoming increasingly disliked by the Egyptian leadership, which is hastily seeking for quislings from among the Palestinians of the Gaza Strip and the Western Bank of the Jordan River that are prepared to make concessions.

The anti-Palestinian stand of Cairo is strongly condemned by the progressive Arab states and forces, by the Palestine Liberation Organization. The documents adopted by recent meetings of the leaders of these states and the PLO in Tripoli and Algiers, stress that the Arab people of Palestine, headed by their tried and tested leader, the PLO will continue the struggle against all the attempts of the forces of imperialism and reaction to emasculate the Palestine problem, for national self-determination, including the creation of their own state.

The anti-Palestinian campaign, unleashed by Cairo to please Israel and its patrons, inflicts tremendous damage on the interests of the Arabs, on the cause of achieving a just settlement in the Middle East, goes contrary to the national interests of the Egyptian people.

AS-SADAT 'SHUTS HIS EYES' TO ISRAELI OCCUPATION

LD2812577 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Feb 78 Morning Edition p 3 LD

[V. Matveyev article: "Dubious Generosity"]

[Text] On his way to the United States for talks recently, Egyptian President as-Sadat talked with a TIME magazine correspondent on board the aircraft. During this talk he mentioned his intention of requesting that the U.S. Government supply American weapons to Egypt. As-Sadat stated: "I do not want to be treated like before, with them looking at me with one eye on Israel.... American weapons cannot be used against America's allies or friends. But at the moment I also have other problems. I have received disturbing reports from Africa, from Somalia and Chad...."

While in the United States, the Egyptian leader developed this theme, assuring his audience that his request for arms supplies from the United States is not in the least connected with the needs of the country, a part of whose territory--and a very considerable part--is occupied by Israeli troops. The guest dwelt on his desire to use the weapons received to carry out policing functions in those African countries whose internal order, and whose policy he knows is not to Washington's taste.

There was not much hesitation in the U.S. capital in deciding to supply F-5 aircraft to Egypt. What sort of machines are these? The New York TIMES indicates that "F-5 aircraft could not oppose first line Israeli aircraft and thus would have no substantial effect on the most dangerous sector of the Near East front, but they could be used in the circumstances which As-Sadat has in mind."

Thus the American newspaper admits that the Egyptian leader, to do the United States a service on the African Continent, is shutting his eyes to the source of persisting dangerous tension in the Near East--the occupation by Israeli troops of a significant part of the Arab lands, including part of his own country's territory.

Meanwhile official Washington is trying to construct a "concept" which twists the fundamental facts of the situation in that region. According to the U.S. President's assertion at a press conference on 17 February, Egypt must reckon not with Israel's warmongering, annexationist policy, but with certain other "threats to its security." In this connection the author of this staggering assertion resorted to references to Ethiopia, Iraq, Libya and also to our country....

You would think there was no such thing as the Sinai Peninsula, occupied by Israeli troops; the other Arab territories held by these troops; and the constant threat to Arab people from Israel, which relies on generous U.S. support.

Such is the "basis", if one may call it that, of the deal reached between Washington and Cairo on the supply of American weapons to Egypt.

OWEN SUPPORTS ISRAEL ON SETTLEMENTS, PALESTINIANS

LD281212Y Moscow TASS in English 1122 GMT 28 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Paris, February 28, TASS--Dispatches from Jerusalem report that the visiting British Foreign Secretary David Owen factually supported the plan advanced by Israeli Premier Begin for an "autonomous zone" on the occupied Jordan West Bank as a "transition" concept, excluding a solution to the Palestinian problem.

Speaking at a news conference in Jerusalem on Monday Owen noted with obvious satisfaction that in this way neither side (i.e. neither Israel nor Egypt) "need now modify its fundamental positions". The British foreign secretary also essentially justified the policy of Israeli settlement in the occupied Arab territories, emphasising that he had never qualified them as "illegal". Owen hinted that if Israel and Egypt learn to live together in a global settlement of the dispute, the presence of these settlements might be seen "as a part of a whole".

Local political observers assess such a stand of the British foreign secretary as connivance at Israel, which resorts to all kinds of stratagems to postpone and complicate a really equitable solution of the Middle East problem with participation of all interested sides on the basis of the United Nations resolutions. And these resolutions, as is common knowledge, envisage the complete withdrawal of the Israeli troops from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967, exercise of the inalienable national rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including their right to self-determination and setting up their own independent state, safeguarding of the independent existence and security of all states of that region.

OWEN FAILS TO BRING JORDAN INTO TALKS

Trip Ends Without Results

LD010716Y Moscow TASS in English 0620 GMT 1 Mar 78 LD

[Text] London, February 28, TASS--The British Foreign Secretary David Owen today returned to London after his four-day Middle Eastern tour. The aim of his mission, preliminarily agreed upon with Washington, was, commentators believe, to try "to put life into the abortive initiative of president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, As-Sadat. A particular stake was made on Jordan. The United States and Britain hope that Jordan will join the Cairo-Tel Aviv negotiations.

Judging by press reports David Owen's mission brought no tangible results in this direction. The Jordanian leaders stated in no uncertain terms that Israel should meet a number of cardinal demands, specifically it should put an end to the occupation of the Western Bank of the River Jordan, to evacuate the settlements on the occupied lands, to return to the Arabs the Arab districts of Jerusalem.

The negotiations of the British foreign secretary in Israel have not produced much, either. News analysts, commenting on Owen's meeting with Prime Minister Begin, point out that Tel Aviv, as before, does not intend to give up its tough stand and make any substantial concessions.

U.S. LOAN TO EGYPT REQUIRES 'FLEXIBILITY' ON SETTLEMENT

LD281810Y Moscow TASS in English 1644 GMT 28 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Cairo, February 28, TASS--An agreement has been signed here on the granting to Egypt of a 250-million dollar American credit. The United States promised to loan Egypt this year about 1,000 million dollars on condition that the Egyptian leadership should be "more flexible" in questions connected with the Middle-Eastern settlement, should continue the West-orientated foreign policy and should cut short the progressive socio-economic reforms in the country.

HOMEWARD-BOUND SYRIAN PRESIDENT AL-ASAD CABLES BREZHNEV

LD281459Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Feb 78 p 2 LD

[Text] Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Ba'th Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic, while on board his aircraft en route home after completing his official friendly visit to the USSR, sent a telegram to Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. The telegram states: "Having completed our visit to the Soviet Union, I want to express to you and to your comrades--the members of the CPSU Central Committe, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the USSR Council of Ministers--deep gratitude from myself personally and on behalf of the members of the Syrian delegation for the warm reception and hospitality accorded to us.

"Returning home, we are taking with us your greetings and good wishes to the people of the Syrian Arab Republic. We are satisfied with the talks which took place during our visit, and we value highly the Soviet Union's resolute and invariable support for the Arabs' just struggle. This visit and its results will undoubtedly strengthen the friendship and cooperation between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Soviet Union in all spheres.

"I wish you personally health and happiness and I wish the people of the Soviet Union further successes and prosperity."

SOVIET-SYRIAN ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL COOPERATION PRAISED

LD222014Y Moscow TASS in English 1610 GMT 22 Feb 78 LD

["Syria: Confidence in the Future"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, February 22 TASS--The NEW TIMES [NOVOYE VREMYA] WEEKLY notes the success of Soviet-Syrian cooperation. A special correspondent of the weekly, who recently visited Syria, writes:

"The Soviet people are working hand-in-hand with the Syrians in many branches of national economy. A chart for the use of water resources is being jointly drawn up. Railway lines having a total length of more than 1,400 kilometres are being built and reconstructed on the basis of modern technology. The port of Latakia, the country's sea gate, is being expanded. More than 50 various industrial projects have been built or are under construction in Syria with Soviet aid.

Thousands of skilled workers have been trained at the same time at the training centres set up with Soviet assistance, at construction sites and enterprises.

It was already the first intergovernmental agreement of 1957, which said that cooperation between the Soviet Union and Syria is developing on the basis of equality, mutual economic benefit, noninterference in the internal affairs and full respect for the national sovereignty of both countries.

Economic, scientific-technical, cultural and other cooperation between our countries, the correspondent goes on to write, is based on [word indistinct] foundation of interstate and interparty ties, common political stands on many important issues of the present, in the first place on the question of the Middle East settlement."

"Personal contacts between the Soviet (?and Syrian) leaders at various levels have become a good tradition."

The correspondent touches upon the republic's economic successes. "Over the the last seven years, he writes, the gross national product has considerably increased to reach 6.4 billion in the dollar [words indistinct] its average per capita income--dollars a year--the country holds a worthy place in the Arab world (this compares with only 280 in Egypt, and 290 dollars in Sudan). The sum total of capital investments in national economy according to the fourth five-year plan (1976-1980) is four times as big as in the preceding five-year plan period, (?with) state sector accounting for 80 percent of them.

And this is so despite the fact that Syria is forced to spend enormous funds on confrontation with the aggressor, on the military needs [words indistinct] people in that country understand that there is no choice, as the Israeli troops dug in the Golan Heights at a distance of 60 kilometres from Damascus".

"Developments taking place in the Middle East now undoubtedly require analysis and consultations, consolidation of the progressive forces of the region and a further strengthening of their cooperation with the socialist countries. Hence the interest in Syria and all over the Arab world in the official friendly visit to the Soviet Union of President Hafiz al-Asad at the head of the Syrian party and government delegation."

SAUDI ARABIA EXPANDS CLAIMS TO NEIGHBORS' TERRITORY

LD281430Y Moscow TASS in English 1327 GMT 28 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Beirut, February 28, TASS--The magazine ATH-THAWRA MUSTAMIRRA carried an article on the hegemonistic designs of Saudi Arabia in the Arab world, on the attempts by the Riyadh leaders to establish control over neighbouring countries and force them to pursue a policy suiting Saudi Arabia.

The magazine recalls last year's seizure by Saudi Arabia of the Kuwait islands Karu and Umm-El-Maradim in the Persian Gulf where, specialists believe, there are big oil deposits. Notwithstanding protests from the Kuwait Government, the Saudi Arabians retained the seized islands and have already begun prospecting for oil there.

Early this year, Saudi Arabia presented territorial claims to North Yemen, asking for the Jouf district where oil deposits are believed to be.

Taking advantage of the weak control by the Yemeni Arab Republic Government over the situation in the northeast of the country, Saudi Arabia established firm commercial and economic contacts with some tribes there. The Saudi Arabians also set up their customs and police check points and even introduced troops into some villages. Saudi currency was put into circulation in the northeast of the Yemeni Arab Republic.

ARAB INDUSTRIAL GROUP ENDORSES WESTERN ARMS CONTRACTS

LD241646Y Moscow TASS in English 1605 GMT 24 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Beirut, February 24, TASS--Reports on a meeting of the supreme committee of the Arab military industry organization reached here. On the committee are Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Imperialist circles of the West, the USA and Britain, in the first place, link special hopes with the activities of that organization which was founded in 1975, regarding it as a bearer of its policy in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf Area. U.S. Defense Secretary Harold Brown, pointing to the strategic importance of the region, which accounts for about 65 per cent of the oil reserves of the capitalist world, said recently the region cannot be separated from the security of the USA and its NATO and Asian allies.

The meeting of the supreme committee of the Arab military industry organization endorsed contracts worth tens of millions of dollars, which were negotiated by the organization's member-countries with foreign arms manufacturing companies. The blessing was given, in particular, to Egypt's deals with the American Motors Corporation on the construction of a military truck manufacturing plant in the A.R.E. territory, with the British Aerospace on the construction of an enterprise to make "Swingfire" anti-tank rockets as well as with the Rolls-Royce and the Westland Aircraft on a plant to make Lynx helicopters.

The participants in the committee also took a decision on the construction of a joint enterprise to produce military electronic equipment in Saudi Arabia within the framework of the Arab military industry organization.

Arab reaction, which is combining its efforts and which counts on a close cooperation with arms manufacturers of Western countries, does not conceal that the setting up and expansion of military production is aimed at combatting the mounting national liberation movement in the region and at upholding the interests of international imperialism.

BREZHNEV EXCHANGES TELEGRAMS WITH KUWAITI EMIR

LD281828Y Moscow TASS in English 1757 GMT 28 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 28, TASS--Leonid Brezhnev sent a telegram to the Emir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, conveying to the friendly Kuwait people congratulations and good wishes on the occasion of the national day of Kuwait.

In his reply telegram the Emir of Kuwait expressed gratitude for the congratulations and, for his part, conveyed to the friendly Soviet people wishes of happiness and success.

U.S. FLEET COMMANDER'S 'SECRET' ATHENS VISIT NOTED

LD2818202 Moscow TASS in English 1802 GMT 28 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Athens, February 28, TASS--It has become known here that Commander of the Sixth American Fleet Vice-Admiral Harry Train stayed in the capital of Greece on February 12-28. He held negotiations with Minister of National Defence Evangelos Averof-Tositsas and other high-placed military men. The American vice-admiral's visit was kept secret, until reports leaked into the press on his negotiations in Athens.

The newspaper ELEVTHEROTIPIA reports that the main attention at the negotiations was riveted to questions connected with realisation of the Greek-American agreement on military cooperation, specifically American military aid to Greece and the status of U.S. military bases on the Greek territory.

It is not ruled out, the press believes, that the commander of the Sixth U.S. Fleet was trying to exert pressure upon the Greek side in the question of Greece's "obligations" towards NATO, from the military organization of which it withdrew in 1974. In the bloc's opinion, the present state of Greece's relations with NATO is unsatisfactory, since Greece's withdrawal "weakened" the NATO's south eastern flank.

Commentators note that Train's trip is a link in the chain of steps taken by the USA and NATO to bring Greece back into the military organization of the bloc.

CYPRUS PRESIDENT TO CARRY ON MAKARIOS' POLICY

LD2818242 Moscow TASS in English 1815 GMT 28 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Nicosia, February 28, TASS--The president of Cyprus, Spiros Kiprianou, stated today that he would consistently carry on the policy, whose foundations were a laid by the late President Makarios.

Speaking in the Cyprus parliament after being formally sworn in for a 5-year term, Spiros Kiprianou stressed that most correct for Cyprus and its people in the foreign policy domain is nonalignment, based on U.N. principles and on the provisions of the final act of the all-European conference in Helsinki.

The president devoted much attention in his speech to the Cyprus problem. He pointed out that it is essentially an international problem. We are backing the efforts to further internationalise the Cyprus question and in this connection we approve of the Soviet Union's proposal to call within the framework of the United Nations a representative international conference on Cyprus. Spiros Kiprianou stressed that the Cyprus problem could be resolved only within the framework of the United Nations and on the basis of its resolution.

The president spoke highly of the stand of the Soviet Union and other socialist states on the Cyprus question. He expressed profound gratitude to the countries of the socialist community for the support and backing, which they are giving to the Cyprus people in their struggle for freedom, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Cyprus.

WESTERN ARMS UNLOADED AT WALVIS BAY, REPORTS INDICATE

LD271740Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1030 GMT 27 Feb 78 LD

[Georgiy Voytsekhovskiy dispatch from Dar es Salaam]

[Text] It has become known from (?news) sources that intensive unloading of military equipment and ammunition is taking place at the port of Walvis Bay, on Namibia's Atlantic coast. From transport vessels, protected from the sea by South African naval patrol boats and torpedo boats and on land by cordons of soldiers, electronic and communications equipment, tanks, armored cars, missile launchers, helicopters, shells and infantry weapons are being unloaded in the port. All this equipment and all these weapons are made in NATO countries to further modernize one of the biggest military bases in South Africa, Rooikop, and the racist contingents stationed in the northern part of Namibia, along the border with Angola.

It is being noted in Dar es Salaam that supplies of NATO military cargo continuously go through the port of Walvis Bay for the racist army. Almost 90 percent of strategic raw materials are also taken out of Namibia through the same port to the NATO countries. The port is linked by good roads and railway lines with the most important economic regions of Namibia. The port and region of Walvis Bay as a whole are one of the most important economic and strategic military zones in Namibia in the hands of the South African regime.

The Vorster regime lays a particular kind of claim to Walvis Bay. The people of Namibia do not recognize this claim since Walvis Bay is its indigenous territory, which is currently under the sway of racists and invaders. The patriots of Namibia, who are struggling for their freedom, demand that the South African invaders clear out of Namibia, including Walvis Bay.

RHODESIAN SOLDIERS ATTACK BOTSWANA BORDER GUARDS

LD281122Y Moscow TASS in English 1049 GMT 28 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Lusaka, February 28, TASS--A detachment of the Rhodesian "security forces" made an incursion into Botswana's territory in the area of the inhabited locality of Kazungula. Soldiers of the Smith racist regime attacked a Botswana border patrol. There are killed and wounded among the border guards. A Botswana Government's statement in connection with the racists' provocation points out that the Salisbury regime systematically violates the republic's sovereignty.

'SERIOUS CONCERN' IN MOZAMBIQUE OVER RHODESIAN PLAN

LD280814Y Moscow TASS in English 0804 GMT 28 Feb 78 LD

["Dangerous Collusion Condemned"--TASS headline]

[Text] New York, February 28, TASS--TASS correspondent Vladimir Matyash writes: In a message to the United Nations secretary general, Kurt Waldheim, the People's Republic of Mozambique has stronger condemned the so called "internal settlement" in Rhodesia--the collusion between the head of the racist regime, Smith, and "moderate" African leaders.

It expresses the Mozambique Government's serious concern in connection with "the serious threat both to peace in the region and to international peace and security", should the racists and their patrons succeed in imposing their will on Zimbabwe's African population. The struggling people of Zimbabwe, the message stresses, strives for a just settlement that would guarantee its genuine independence. It is not difficult to see that the "internal settlement" only serves as a cover for the perfidious plans harboured by the Ian Smith minority regime to consolidate racist domination in Zambabwe.

Mozambique qualified the plans of the Smith racist clique as a new attempt to create a puppet government which will try by means of subterfuges to provoke foreign intervention in order to impart an international character to the Rhodesian conflict and worsen the Zimbabwe people's sufferings, and also "as a direct challenge to the international community's efforts directed at a just settlement of the Zimbabwe problem".

The message stresses the need to ensure guarantees of independence and freedom to the people of Zimbabwe and to preserve international security in accordance with United Nations principles. Mozambique also called on the world community to frustrate the criminal collusion between the head of the Rhodesian racists, Smith, and the puppets, and to give all the necessary aid to the Zimbabwe people's nation-liberation struggle.

YOUTH COMMAND URGES SUPPORT FOR ZIMBABWE PATRIOTIC FRONT

LD281632Y Moscow TASS in English 1521 GMT 28 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Accra, February 28, TASS--The African Youth Command organization has called upon all states, members of the Organization of African Unity, to broaden financial, material and military aid, to intensify diplomatic support to the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front. This solidarity will help attain genuine majority rule in Zimbabwe, says a statement of the African Youth Command, published here.

The so-called "internal settlement" of the racists ringleader, Smith, with the puppet African leaders, the document stresses, is the racists new strategic manoeuvre aimed at preserving their rule in Zimbabwe, Namibia and the Republic of South Africa and neutralize the progressive national-liberation movements of south Africa.

BANNER, EMBLEM OF MPLA-WORKERS' PARTY DESCRIBED

LD271516Y Moscow TASS in English 1502 GMT 27 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Luanda, February 27 TASS--Published here is the statute of the banner of the MPLA-Workers Party. It is a rectangular piece of cloth of two horizontal strips, red and black. In the centre of the banner is a yellow five-pointed star. The three colours of the banner have the following meaning: red signifies the colour of blood spilt by the Angolans in the years of the national liberation struggle and in upholding the cause of socialism. Black means the African Continent, and yellow Angola's natural wealth.

In addition to the banner, the party's emblem has also been adopted. It is a white oval which has a map of Angola outlined in green. Against its background is a hand holding a torch. The emblem has the inscription: "MPLA-Workers Party."

ELECTIONS CLOSE IN INDIA, RESULTS DUE 28 FEB

LD261905Y Moscow TASS in English 1626 GMT 26 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Delhi, February 26, TASS--Elections to the legislative assembly ended in five out of 22 Indian states--Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Assam, Meghalaya and the union territory of Arunachal Pradesh.

According to the SAMACHAR agency, from 60 to 75 percent of the voters went to the polls. Claiming the biggest number of mandates, after the ruling Janata Party, is the Indian National Congress and the congress grouping which split off the INC last month, headed by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

The Communist Party of India carried out a vigorous electoral campaign in the south.

At present votes are being counted and the final electoral returns for all the five states and the union territory will be announced on February 28. They will demonstrate the positions of the ruling party in the southern areas of India where the Indian National Congress won the general elections in March last year, and the Congress Party after the party's split.

Elections in June last year to the National Assembly of 12, mainly northern and central states of the Indian union, indicated the success of the Janata party in the majority of states.

INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ON DIEGO GARCIA, HORN OF AFRICA

LD281504Y Moscow TASS in English 1542 GMT 28 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Delhi, February 28, TASS--The foreign minister of India, A.B. Vajpayee, has stated, speaking in the lower house of the parliament, that the Janata Party government, adhering to the country's previous line, comes out for the turning of the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace, against foreign war bases in this region, including the American base on the Diego Garcia Island.

Expressing serious concern over the "explosive" situation in the region of the Horn of Africa, the minister said that "India's position is clear and consists in that the conflict between Somalia and Ethiopia should be solved on a bilateral basis and without the use of force.

INDIAN PAPER CRITICIZES MOTIVE OF PRC GOODWILL GESTURES

LD191542Y Moscow TASS in English 1445 GMT 19 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Delhi, February 19, TASS--Numerous recent goodwill gestures by China to India, reports the influential Indian paper THE STATESMAN represent probably nothing more than "appeals to the public" meant to cause misunderstandings between India and the Soviet Union. Referring to informed Indian circles, the paper notes that India is exercising caution in evaluating China's position in the post-Mao period, since it does not see any substantial changes in it.

INDOCHINA

ROMANOV DELEGATION ACTIVITIES IN SRV REPORTED

LD281643Y Leningrad LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 Feb 78 p 1 LD

[Text] Ho Chi Minh City, 18 February TASS--The Soviet delegation headed by G.V. Romanov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and first secretary of the Leningradskiy CPSU Obkom, which is here at the invitation of Vietnamese friends, is continuing its acquaintance with the life of the largest city of South Vietnam, which bears the name of Ho Chi Minh, the leader of the Vietnamese revolution.

The envoys of the Soviet land were greeted as very dear guests by workers at the Le Min Suan state farm, which is located in the suburban region of Vin Tuyen. The state farm--one of the first major socialist enterprises in South Vietnamese agriculture--was created immediately after the liberation. During a warm and friendly talk the leaders of the state farm told the Soviet guests about the achievements of the state farm and its future development. A photographic exhibition entitled "Leningrad in the Struggle Against Fascism and in the Building of Socialism" was mounted in the central farmstead.

The same day the Soviet delegation visited Ho Chi Minh's largest state textile enterprise, the Victory factory. The 3,000-strong collective of the enterprise greeted the Soviet guests warmly and cordially. The members of the delegation visited various shops of the combine and acquainted themselves with the work of this leading enterprise of the city's light industry.

A large amateur concert, at which working people of the factory performed a diverse program, was given in honor of the delegation. The guests greatly appreciated the performances by the amateur artists.

To the stormy applause of the audience, G.V. Romanov, head of the Soviet delegation, presented the management and party committee of the factory with the picture "Lenin in Sokolniki" as a memento.

CAMBODIA'S FAILURE TO RESPOND TO SRV PROPOSALS CITED

LD281434Y Moscow in English to South and Southeast Asia 1100 GMT 28 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Here now is a report from a Radio Moscow correspondent in Hanoi, Leonid Krichevskiy, on the situation on the Vietnamese-Kampuchean border:

More than three weeks have passed since the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV] published a statement outlining constructive proposals for a speedy peaceful settlement of the border issue between Vietnam and Kampuchea. These proposals are in the interest of both the Vietnamese and the Kampuchean peoples. They are also in the interests of strengthening peace in Southeast Asia. There has been wide response all over the world to the peace initiative of the SRV. It has been supported by the socialist and other states and by international and national public organizations.

The authorities in Kampuchea however are ignoring these reasonable proposals. Instead of getting down at the negotiating table and settling all questions together, they are coming out with slanderous fabrications about Vietnam. Ungrounded accusations are made in order to try and cover up the continuing criminal actions against Vietnam. This is also done in order to find a false pretext to evade the peaceful proposals advanced by the Vietnamese Government on 5 February of this year. Instead of trying through a joint effort to remove tension from the borderline and to help carry out Vietnam's proposals on ending hostilities and withdrawing the troops of the two sides 5 kilometers from the borders, Kampuchea continues to shell the border regions and tries to capture some of the villages and communities.

Such actions involve material damage and casualties among the civilian population. Military operations are continuing on practically along the entire border between Vietnam and Kampuchea.

During a recent trip to some of the border regions together with a group of foreign journalists, I was able to meet and talk with the soldiers and officers of the Kampuchean Armed Forces who have surrendered and also with the many refugees from Kampuchea. Judging by what they said, it is clear that the Kampuchean authorities have for a long time been trying to make the Kampucheans hate the Vietnamese. The journalists were shown a number of documents seized together with the prisoners, and everywhere Vietnam was described as a deadly enemy of the Kampuchean people and all the documents called for destroying the enemy, that is the Vietnamese, and burning down their peaceful villages, actually carrying out a scorched land tactic.

The conclusion one can arrive at is that the border problems have become for the present-day leaders in Phnom Penh only a pretext for whipping up an anti-Vietnamese campaign and conducting an open course of aggravating the situation in Indochina. This is an adventurous course which is against the interests of all the people in Southeast Asia.

Such an aggressive stand on Phnom Penh is clearly supported by those outside forces that are against the countries of Indochina developing along the road of peace and social progress and against the growing prestige of a united Vietnam.

USSR TO AID VIETNAM IN GAS, OIL PROSPECTING

LD281506Y Moscow TASS in English 1340 GMT 25 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 28, TASS--The Soviet Union will give this year extensive assistance to Vietnam in prospecting for oil and gas deposits. A TASS correspondent has been told at the Ministry of Geology of the USSR that a large quantity of equipment and materials will be sent for the purpose to the fraternal country, specialists are being deputied for explorations and training local cadres. [sentence as received]

Deposits of gas and a number of other minterals were discovered in Vietnam with the participation of Soviet geologists.

Specialists from the USSR share the experience in prospecting for and development of mineral deposits with their colleagues from all socialist countries. The assistance being rendered by the USSR in geology to emergent developing Asian and African states is growing wider with every passing year. A large quantity of high-production geological equipment is sent there every year--operations in prospecting for mineral deposits, carried out with the participation of Soviet specialists are growing wider.

More than 400 mineral deposits have been discovered with Soviet assistance in developing countries in the recent years. Oil deposits were discovered in Syria, India, Iraq, Afghanistan. Extensive work was done in Iran in expanding the coal-raw material basis for the Isfahan metallurgical plant. A gas condensate deposit was discovered by Soviet and Pakistani geologists in the Dodak area. Soviet specialists are engaged in systematic geological explorations in Algeria. They are estimating hydraulic resources in some areas of Sahara, for instance.

All deposits surveyed by Soviet geologists are handed over free-of-charge to the governments of those states where they work. In compensation, those countries pay for this with their traditional export commodities as a rule.

JAPANESE PRESS, GOVERNMENT REACTION TO DRAFT TREATY

LD282224Y Moscow TASS in English 2210 GMT 28 Feb 78 LD

["In the Interests of the Peoples of Both Countries"--TASS headline]

[Text] Tokyo, February 28, TASS--The draft Soviet-Japanese treaty on goodneighbourhood and cooperation, proposed by the Soviet Union, has been received with great interest in Japan. The press is commenting on it broadly, stressing that the USSR is striving to develop friendly relations with Japan. The draft treaty on goodneighbourhood and cooperation, proposed by the Soviet Union, says the newspaper ASAHI testifies to the active Soviet policy, aimed at normalizing the relations with Japan, to the "peaceful offensive" of the Soviet Union on Japan. In the opinion of the newspaper, most noteworthy in the Soviet draft treaty is Article Two, containing the proposal not to use force. "The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Japan, this article says, shall resolve their disputes by peaceful means and commit themselves to refrain from the threat of force or its use in their mutual relations". This is an embodiment of the course of relaxing international tension, which lies at the bedrock of Soviet diplomacy, elaborated by Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, the newspaper stresses.

The draft Soviet-Japanese treaty on goodneighbourhood and cooperation, a TASS correspondent was told by the prominent leader of the Japanese working class movement, parliament deputy from the Socialist Party Shogo Oki, clearly reveals the desire to develop consistently the friendly relations between the USSR and Japan. In activating diplomacy it is necessary to devote the main attention to equality and respect of sovereignty. In this sense the contents of the present draft treaty on goodneighbourhood and cooperation deserve a positive evaluation. The proposed Soviet-Japanese treaty on goodneighbourhood and cooperation, Shogo Oki said, should be welcomed as a preliminary stage on the way to the conclusion of a peace treaty between the two countries, a higher step in the development of bilateral relations. The advancement of this draft treaty reflects on the whole the foreign policy line of the Soviet Union, aimed at expanding friendly relations with all the countries, irrespective of their social system. The further deepening of relations between the USSR and Japan, including the spheres of economy, power resources, science and technology, meets the interests of the peoples of both countries. The official circles of Japan have assumed a different stand. This is borne out by the statement of the general secretary of the cabinet of ministers, S. Abe. Judging by this statement, the country's influential forces refuse, as before, to assume a stand of political realism. They are raising the "territorial problem" and regard as premature the consideration of the draft treaty on goodneighbourhood and cooperation.

JAPANESE VOICE RESERVATIONS ON PROPOSED TREATY WITH PRC

LD281453Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Feb 78 p 5 LD

[TASS report: "Timely Warnings"]

[Text] Tokyo, 24 February--The attempts of certain Japanese forces and of the Peking leaders to quickly conclude the so-called treaty of peace and friendship on an anti-Soviet basis is causing serious concern and alarm among the Japanese public. Representatives of various circles in the country are fearful of Japan's possible involvement in the dangerous strategy of China, which is seeking to create a united front against the USSR, and are warning against a hasty signing of the treaty.

Stressing the international consequences of this step, JAPAN TIMES commentator M. Ogawa urges the government and parliament to find out what effect the treaty will have on Japan's national interests. The Japanese-Chinese treaty on peace and friendship, which includes a clause on "hegemony" aimed against a certain third country, M. Ogawa stresses, is unacceptable to Japan. It contradicts the fundamental foreign policy course proclaimed by Japan which seeks friendly relations with all countries.

Keio University professor T. Ishikawa also calls for a cool approach from positions of Japan's national interests in concluding the treaty with China. In an article published in the newspaper SANKEI SHIMBUN he writes that, when concluding this treaty, it is essential to consider fully all the objections frequently voiced in the press.

A bilateral treaty on peace and friendship cannot include controversial clauses relating to third countries, T. Ishikawa stresses. China is seeking to create a united international anti-Soviet front. There is no doubt that the conclusion of a treaty with China on this basis would lead to the deterioration of relations with the Soviet Union. Therefore, in the course of talks with China it is essential to adhere strictly to the fundamental foreign policy course which seeks friendly relations with all countries and minimizing the damage which this treaty could cause to Japan's relations with the Soviet Union.

MILITARIST PLANS OF SDA THREATEN ASIAN PEACE

LD281529Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Feb 78 p 4 LD

[Correspondent I. Latyshev article: "Longing to Get Hold of a 'Big Stick'"]

[Text] Tokyo, February--Leading generals of the Japanese Armed Forces are bored, it seems, with the diplomats' talk about the "peaceful aims" of Japanese foreign policy.

The recent speech by Shin Kanemaru, director general of the Self Defense Agency [SDA] and member of the cabinet, to the officers and soldiers of the First Airborne Brigade of the Self Defense Forces draws our attention. He stated in particular: There are people who consider that the Self Defense Forces should not represent a threat to other countries. But how can Japan defend itself if its armed forces are not dangerous to an enemy?

The essence of Kanemaru's speech comes down to the fact that Japan should begin to intimidate certain "enemies" among nearby countries with its military might. We must force them to experience, as he said, "a feeling of potential danger from the Japanese Self Defense Forces.

In light of this new concept, the present combat might of the Japanese Self Defense Forces is considered "too weak" by their leaders, inasmuch as it "does not produce a psychological feeling of threat to other countries." Developing the idea of the need to further arm Japan with all possible types of offensive weapons, Kanemaru's closest adviser, Gen Hiroomi Kurisu, chief of the United Staffs Council of the Self Defense Forces, recently published an article in the military journal WING. It says the following: "The experience of history teaches us that in any war only attack has led to victory. It is impossible to repulse effectively any enemy attack by defensive means alone. Weapons which are incapable of making an enemy fear a strike against his bases and rear must therefore be acknowledged as ineffectual from the viewpoint of averting an invasion." In his article the Japanese general came out totally against any division of weapons into "offensive" and "defensive."

Keichi Ito, chief of the SDA defense department, advocated in parliament the equipping of the Japanese Army with nuclear weapons. Wrongly interpreting the constitution, he said that the "Japanese Self Defense Forces are not forbidden to possess [illegible] types of tactical nuclear arms with the aim of defending the country."

The speeches of Japanese military chiefs pointed out here are not, of course, an accident and do not simply express a personal opinion. It is a matter of far-reaching plans. "The transformation of the Self Defense Forces into something which would provoke fear in other countries," the newspaper ASAHI EVENING NEWS writes, "is now becoming the aim of our country's military leaders."

The new doctrine of the Japanese Self Defense Forces command naturally makes the peace-loving public both in Japan and beyond its borders take notice. Indeed the same "historical experience" to which the Japanese general referred in his article teaches us primarily that dependence on military intimidation of neighboring countries is equally as groundless and short-sighted as it is dangerous for Japan itself. Who does not know today that precisely the policy of saber-rattling led Japan to militarism and ended finally with the giant military conflagration in the Far East in which not only the peoples of the neighboring countries but also the Japanese people suffered. Today too, a return to such a policy can give the Japanese people nothing but an arms race, the militarization of the country and the prospect of Japan being drawn into new, senseless military conflicts. In other words, the supporters of the policy of saber-rattling among the leaders of the Japanese Armed Forces are deliberately starting to play a dangerous game with fire.

One question still remains open, however: Will the generals succeed in drawing the country into this game, as happened in the past, or not. In any event it must be kept in mind that, unlike former times, Japan's peace-loving forces today have at their disposal much potential for repulsing the intrigues of the militarist circles. They have on their side the sympathy and support of advocates of peace throughout the world. Also, the general balance of forces in the Far East has changed. We should not forget that certain people here are longing to get hold of a "big stick" with which to frighten neighboring Asian peoples.

JAPAN-EEC TRADE TALKS OPEN IN TOKYO 28 FEBRUARY

LD280807Y Moscow TASS in English 0754 GMT 28 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Tokyo, February 28, TASS--Talks have opened here today between Japan and the Common Market on the settlement of trade and economic differences between Tokyo and the countries of the Nine. West European partners of Japan insist that Tokyo reduce customs duties and considerably widen her imports of industrial and agricultural products from the EEC in order to make good for the deficit in trade with Japan, which reached five billion dollars last year.

VARIATIONS TO IZVESTIYA COMMENT ON USSR-JAPAN TREATY

The following variations to the item entitled "Draft Cooperation Treaty Improves USSR-Japan Relations" published in the 24 February Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, M 1, are supplied by Moscow IZVESTIYA of 24 February:

Paragraph 3, Line two, IZVESTIYA reads...cooperation does not remove the question of...

Same paragraph, line four, reads...the implementation of the Soviet proposal, thus, not only does not adjourn this question, as some people are trying to make out in Japan, but, on the contrary, would improve the atmosphere for talks on a peace treaty. It must be...

IZVESTIYA: U.S. TROOP MOVE AIMED AT PANAMA, NICARAGUA

LD281421Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Feb 78 Morning Edition p 3 LD

[Text] Panama--About 1,000 specially trained U.S. paratroopers have been abruptly transferred from the United States to the Panama Canal Zone.

The local press reports that a large proportion of these "special" troops is made up of veterans of the dirty war in Vietnam and military police specializing in the suppression of demonstrations by the people.

The arrival of additional U.S. military units in the Canal Zone has caused concern among government, political and public circles in Panama. This anxiety is intensified by the fact that so far the U.S. southern command has given no explanation for the urgent transfer of additional special units to the Canal Zone.

The local newspapers believe that the transfer of the large paratroop unit was undertaken to put pressure on the Panamanian Government. The United States, the newspaper CRITICA writes, is seeking to intimidate the Panamanian people and their government.

The opinion is also being voiced that the Americans want to use the Panama Canal Zone to transfer troops to Nicaragua to render military aid to dictator Somoza's corrupt regime.

VENEZUELA REJECTS U.S. THREATS OVER OIL PRICES

LD252116Y Moscow TASS in English 1925 GMT 25 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Caracas, February 25, TASS--Officials, the press and the public of Venezuela are indignant over the threats which are being uttered in the USA and which are addressed to those oil-producing countries, which, acting within the framework of the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC), decline to obey Washington's peremptory shouts and pursue an independent oil export policy.

Setting out Venezuela's stand in the question of fixing oil prices, the republic's president, Carlos Andres Perez, stated that Venezuela will no allow one to intimidate itself even if threats come from a great power. We are ready to hold negotiations at government level, he emphasized, but this does not mean that we shall radically change the policy in the area of oil. Venezuela will continue to cooperate with OPEC member-states and follow the common course coordinated with them.

R. Larrazabal, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Venezuela, writes in an article published in the newspaper TRIBUNA POPULAR that Washington, taking care of the interests of American monopolies, rases discriminatory barriers in trade with the developing countries. (?arbitrarily) raises prices on U.S.-exported goods, and declines to supply machinery and equipment. When OPEC countries make demands aimed at establishing fair prices of liquid fuel, the United States resorts to threats.

Such is Washington's course with regard not only to oil-exporting countries but to all the developing countries as well, the article emphasises. This arises from the very nature of imperialism.

SHCHERBITSKIY MESSAGE ON BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS

LD281515Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Feb 78 p 2 LD

[Text] To the PRAVDA editorial office:

I express my heartfelt gratitude to all organizations, establishments, comrades and friends who have congratulated me on my 60th birthday and on my being awarded the Order of the October Revolution.

[Signed] V. Shcherbitskiy

DEMICHEV KOMMUNIST ARTICLE ON CULTURAL COOPERATION

LD230828Y Moscow TASS in nglish 0746 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 23, TASS--"The Soviet Union has always come out and continues coming out for genuine cultural cooperation, and considerable positive results that were met by world public with gratification, have been achieved on this road. At present, the USSR maintains cultural ties with almost 120 countries of the world. Inter-governmental agreements on cultural exchanges and cooperation have been concluded with most of them," writes USSR Minister of Culture Petr Demichev in his article on the development of Soviet culture and the widening of cultural exchanges with foreign countries, published in the third issue of the KOMMUNIST journal of the CPSU CC.

"We have every ground to speak of the good results of cultural cooperation with such countries as France, Japan and a number of others. Positive trends have become manifest in cultural cooperation with the FRG. Cultural ties with Italy have been developing rather well until recently."

"The seventies have been marked by a considerable widening of cultural exchanges with the USA. It has been generally recognized that this was a worthy contribution to the cause of mutual understanding among the peoples of the two countries. But recently, however, in connection with the intensification of attacks by some circles in the USA at the process of detente, the atmosphere of cultural cooperation has complicated."

"The advocates of a reversal to cold war are doing their utmost to poison the favourable international atmosphere which has taken shape as a result of successes in the process of detente, Petr Demichev noted. With this aim in view a ballyhoo is whipped up around invented problems, attempts are made to substitute the real meaning of the agreements reached with such interpretation of them that undermines their very fundamentals. Quite a few propaganda speculations arise around Soviet art too. Some people are trying to belittle its achievements, to call in question and even deny blankly its time-tested principles.

We have always given and will give, of course, a resolute and timely rebuff to the ideological speculators trying to put socialist culture in a bad light, to discredit its achievements.

"The successes of communist construction, the Constitution of the USSR open up new possibilities, create new favourable conditions for the further development of socialist culture."

COST OF GASOLINE, COFFEE UP, MANUFACTURED GOODS DOWN

LD282214Y Moscow TASS in English 2155 GMT 28 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 1, TASS--To adjust retail prices of separate commodities and services the USSR State Committee on Prices has reduced, as of March 1, the retail prices of TV black-and-white sets by 20 percent, on the average, refrigerators by 15 per cent, capron fabrics--by 20 per cent.

Also reduced were prices of fabrics made of wool with synthetic thread, artificial fur coats and jackets--by 15 per cent. Upper knitted wear for teen-agers, made of synthetic and artificial fibres, will be cheaper, on the average, by 30 per cent, shirts, knitted blouses made of synthetic and artificial threads--by 25 per cent, knitted underwear made of synthetic threads--by 30 per cent.

Prices of jewellery, made of gold and platinum (except plates for artificial teeth) went up, on the average, by 60 per cent, gasoline will cost 15-20 kopecks per litre, repairs and technical maintenance of private passenger cars and spares went up, on the average, by 35 per cent.

The report of the committee on prices points out that because of a considerable rise in foreign-trade prices, prices of imported coffee, cocoa-beans, chocolate were increased.

Since the cost of wedding rings increased, the persons who marry for the first time are paid a money compensation at the marriage registration.

For the invalids, who receive transport facilities free of charge or on easy terms, a compensation is envisaged to offset a rise in prices of gasoline, repairs, and technical maintenance of passenger cars and spares.

Glushkov on Price Changes

LD011228Y Moscow TASS in English 1138 GMT 1 Mar 78 LD

["USSR: Goods for the People Become Cheaper"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 1, TASS--Many consumer goods in the Soviet Union became cheaper as of today. The biggest black-and-white television set is now cheaper almost by a third of its previous cost. The price of refrigerators went down by 15 percent on an average. The prices of many goods made of synthetic fabrics and other manufactures decreased by 10-30 percent.

Commenting on this fact at a press conference in Moscow, Nikolay Glushkov, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Prices, pointed out that the people's living standard steadily rises in this country. This year, like in the past year, pay to many brackets of workers is to be raised. The public consumption funds ensure the citizens' free medical service, education, the payment of pensions, and low rent which remains unchanged for half a century and which accounts for only 3-5 percent of the family budget.

Nikolay Glushkov pointed out that prices of staple foods in the USSR remain unchanged and even go down in spite of the continual rise in wages. Thus, meat and milk prices have remained unchanged since 1962, and those of bread and groats--for about 25 years. This year the state allocates a grant subsidy--22,000 million roubles--to maintain the stable level of prices, those of meat and dairy products in particular.

The reduction of prices of a number of consumer goods also began today. According to the Trade Ministry which announced a large-scale sale, the population, through buying the goods at lowered prices, will have a saving of approximately 1,700 million roubles.

At the same time the price of gasoline approximately doubles. One litre of it now costs 15-20 kopeks. This is the lowest price on the European market.

A new price of gold, corresponding to world market prices, is fixed. Newlyweds, of whom there are five million every year, will be paid a monetary compensation--35 roubles each. Wedding rings will cost them even less than prior to the price increase.

Taxi and public-transport fares will remain constant, Glushkov said. The underground-railway and bus ticket costs only five kopeks, trolleybus fare is four kopeks, and tram fare is three kopeks. These are the lowest fares in the world.

SALYUT-6 ORBITAL STATION FUNCTIONS NORMALLY

LD281026Y Moscow TASS in English 1007 GMT 28 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 28 TASS--TASS special correspondent reports from the flight control centre: The Soviet orbital Salyut-6 station had completed 2,400 turns around the earth, 1,246 of them with the crew on board, by ten o'clock of Moscow time.

Today, Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko have a day of active rest. After the morning procedures and breakfast, the cosmonauts inspected the onboard systems of the station and the spaceship, worked with technical papers. The schedule of the crew also provides for physical exercises on a complex trainer and veloergometer, the cleaning of work compartments and discharge of wastes. The cosmonauts see their families during radio communication sessions. Radio programmes and music are transmitted from the Earth to the orbital complex. According to the reports of the crew and figures of telemetric information, the onboard systems of the orbital complex Salyut-6--Soyuz-27 are functioning normally. The temperature in the compartments of the complex is 22 degrees centigrade, pressure--790 millimetres of the mercury column. The cosmonauts feel well.

ARTIFICIAL EARTH SATELLITE 991 LAUNCHED 28 FEB

LD281402Y Moscow TASS in English 1357 GMT 28 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 28, TASS--A new artificial earth satellite, Cosmos-991, was launched in the Soviet Union today. It has on board scientific instruments for continued exploration of outer space. The satellite has been put into an orbit with the following parametres: The initial period of revolution--104.8 minutes, maximum distance from the Earth--1,022 kilometres, minimum distance--972 kilometres, the orbit's inclination--83 degrees. The instruments are functioning normally.

SOVIET-SWEDISH EXPERIMENT TO STUDY RADIATION IN SPACE

LD280330Y Moscow TASS in English 1932 GMT 27 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 27, TASS--A Soviet-Swedish experiment which will be made this year will help ensure safety of crews of spacecraft from radiation, a TASS correspondent was told by Nikolay Novikov, the deputy chairman of the Intercosmos Council at the USSR Academy of Sciences. The experiment is carried out under an agreement between the USSR and Swedish academies of sciences. A spectrometer manufactured by Swedish engineers at the Kiruna Geophysical Institute will be installed on board the Soviet automatic station Prognoz.

The purpose of the experiment is to study solar activity and its effects on the interplanetary media and on the earth's magnetosphere. In the period of activity, the sun emits a stream of high energy charged particles. These particles reach the earth's magnetosphere. It is possible that they penetrate modules of spacecraft. In connection with the increased exploration of outer space, the questions of radiation safety assume priority importance. Nikolay Novikov said that Soviet scientists tested instrument's sample in Sweden. In March the spectrometer will be brought to the USSR. Joint Soviet-Swedish experiments were conducted before. A fine Swedish instrument for solar studies was, for instance, installed on board the satellite Intercosmos-16 in 1976.

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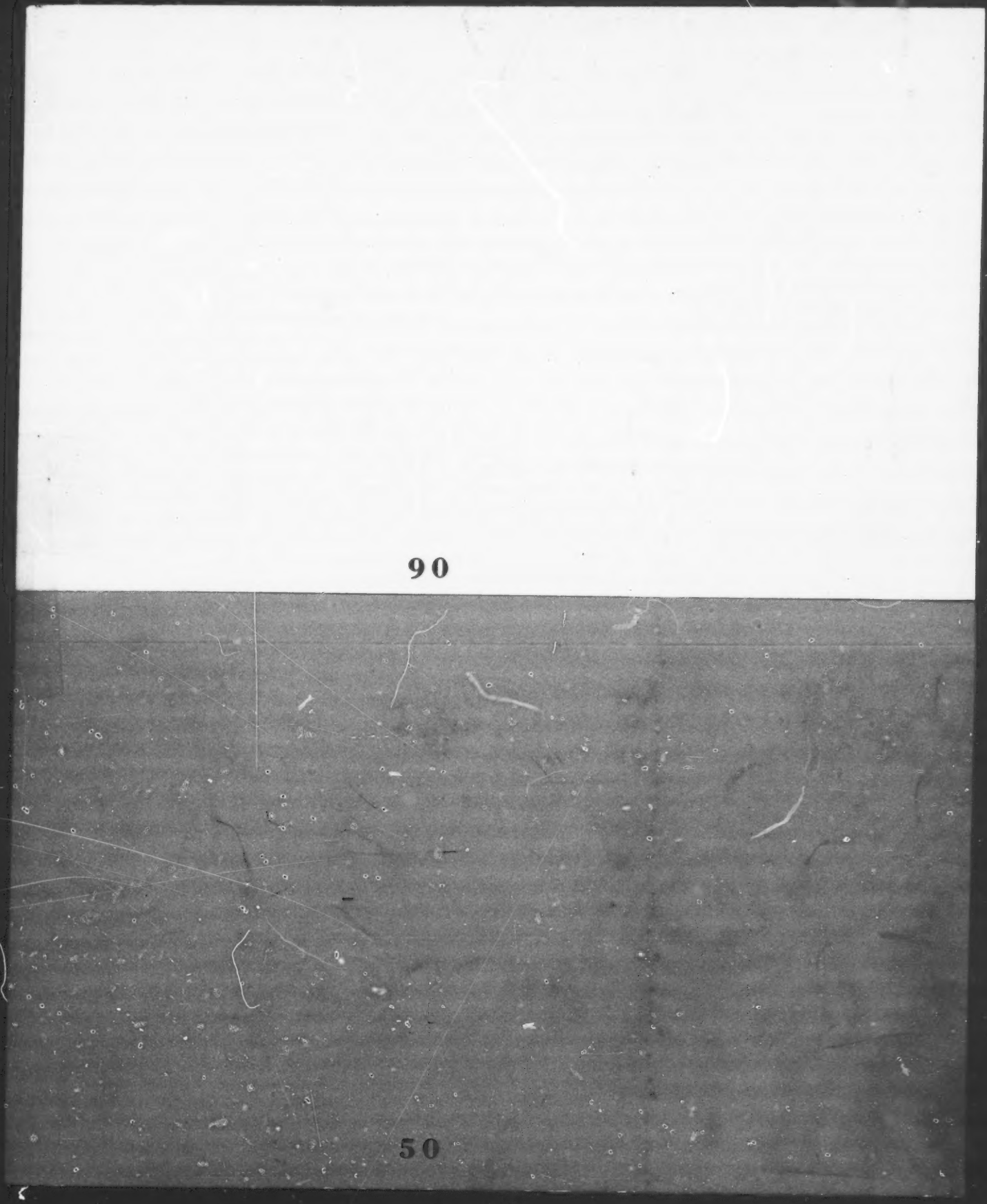
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